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What Does BRICS Mean for Africa?

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What Does BRICS Mean for Africa?

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Abstract

The abbreviation ‘BRICS’ signifies a group of leading regional states – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – seeking to work together to put an end to the monopoly of the Western states in institutions of global governance. The BRICS members have become the effective actors in the world arena. Their economic weight and political influence are growing. They are focused not only on strengthening their mutual ties, but also on assistance to Africa as a way for emerging powers to change the existing world order. However, the role of Africa for BRICS – and the role of BRICS for Africa – is undervalued. The value of Africa for BRICS is down to its resource capabilities and the political weight it carries in the international affairs. It is also a result of a realistic assessment of the continent’s prospects for becoming a driver of global economic development. Africa has become the main destination for BRICS development aid and investment. In focus of its special attention is African infrastructure. They use soft power in developing humanitarian ties with Africa, particularly in health care and education. BRICS is an active participant in peacekeeping and conflict resolution in Africa. So BRICS presence on the continent has become an important and welcome phenomenon. BRICS countries are striving towards cooperation. At the 2013 Summit in Durban they set a new model for financing infrastructure. The 2014 summit in Fortaleza resulted in the creation of the BRICS New Development Bank. The 2015 Summit in Ufa has produced the Strategic Economic Cooperation Initiative. So they coordinate their efforts, including the efforts in Africa. This paper analyzes the African policies of the BRICS countries as a whole and individually. It also explores BRICS states political and economic interests in Africa and estimates the impact of BRICS aid and investment on the African economy and development.

Keywords: BRICS, Africa, China, Russia, India, Brazil, South Africa, resources, investment, infrastructure, soft power, security, peacekeeping, cooperation, development

Introduction

The BRICS countries (China, Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa) have emerged as new effective actors in the world arena. The focus of their attention are not only the strengthening of the ties within the association, but also the assistance to Africa, turning it into a field of implementation of the emerging powers' efforts to change the existing world order. Although traditional donors remain the main source of official aid and investments for Africa, BRICS presence becomes an important phenomenon for the continent and finds a positive response there. This paper analyzes the policies of the BRICS grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as a whole and individually in Africa. Its aim is to explore BRICS political and economic interests in Africa, to estimate the strategies of its cooperation with the African states and the impact of BRICS aid and investment on African economies. Africa has become the main destination for BRICS development aid and investment. African infrastructure is in focus of BRICS attention. BRICS countries are active in agricultural sector: they assist Africa in enhancing agricultural productivity and reduce the impact of food insecurity. BRICS uses widely so-called "soft power". BRICS countries do much for African healthcare and education. They are also very active in peacekeeping and African conflicts resolution. The BRICS contributes much to African economics, and its presence on the continent has become an important phenomenon.

Why Africa is in Sphere of BRICS Attention?

In the last decade, Africa has become a 'field of activity' for the BRICS, the base for the implementation of its efforts to change the existing world order. BRICS attention to Africa is determined by the important role of African resource potential, by successes Africa achieved in its growth and by the continent's influence in the world economy and international relations. Africa is a treasure of natural resources, in which are particularly interested in China, India, Brazil, but at the same time, it is a conglomeration of "backward" countries which are in need of assistance and investment. By cooperation with these countries BRICS demonstrates its ability and willingness to do things that traditional African partners couldn't do. Positioning themselves as defenders of developing the countries' interests, the "emerging countries" pursue a complex objective: first of all – to satisfy their own needs in the resources and commodity markets, on the other hand, – to help Africa in its sustainable development and at last – to improve their image, to show the world what South-South cooperation means really.

Not the latest reason of BRICS activity is the growing influence of African countries in the global economy and in the system of contemporary international relations. The BRICS interest to Africa is dictated, to a large extent, by the African countries economic successes. If in the 90-s Africa's

GDP growth remained at 2.3%, in the XXI century it averaged 5%, and six African countries were among the 10 fastest growing economies of the world in the period of 2001-2010¹. According to IMF forecasts, of the 22 countries that will expand by at least 7 percent a year on average in 2014-2019 – a rate that enables an economy to double its size in a decade – 14 will be in Africa².

Now seven BRICS summits have taken place. The theme of the fifth summit in Durban, South Africa, in 2013 was ‘BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization’³. The Ethekewini Declaration, issued at Durban, showed that African problems are among the priorities of BRICS policy Africa was well represented at the summit. South Africa's President, J. Zuma has invited 15 leaders of the African countries and 8 representatives of African regional organizations, including the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. The summit resulted in the adoption of important for Africa solutions; in particular, the agreement on co-financing the BRICS infrastructure projects in Africa was signed. On the 6th BRICS summit in Fortaleza (Brazil) in 2014 the strengthening of cooperation with African countries, primarily in the areas of infrastructure and industrialization also discussed.

The seventh BRICS summit was held in Ufa, Russia 8-9 July 2015 with the theme ‘BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development’. The summit adopted the Ufa Declaration, Ufa Action Plan, Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership⁴. A major event for summit was the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB). The next step was to set up the first regional bank to be housed in South Africa. The advances were made in setting up the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). “BRICS is becoming a forum for cooperation in a range of areas. Its economic program is continuing to create progress,” – the SA Minister of trade and economy Rob Davis said⁵. One of the proclaimed aims of Russian Presidency in BRICS in 2015-2016 was to begin regular consultations of the BRICS Presidency to the heads of leading international and regional organizations, including the African Union, the League of Arab states, the Islamic Cooperation Organization etc; to establish the practice of sending messages from BRICS Presidency to the heads of leading international organizations on the most pressing issues of the world’s political, financial and economic agenda⁶.

¹Ernst & Young,s (2011). It’s Time for Africa. Africa Attractiveness Survey.

² Marlier S. 2014 Investing in African infrastructure // *The Economist*. 2014.September 16.

³ BRICS.2013.BRICS and Africa: partnership for development, integration and industrialisation. eThekwini Declaration, Durban, 27 March. DOI= <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

⁴ BRICS Summit in UFA Adopts Multiple Documents to Deepen Ties (2015). Politics. 10.07.1015 Available at: sputniknews.com/politics/20150710/1024439714 (accessed 14 January, 2016).

⁵ BRICS 2015 a success (2015): Davies ENCA, 10 July Available at: www.enca.com/money/brics-2015-success-davies (accessed 06 January 2016).

⁶ Concept of the Russian Federation’s Presidency in BRICS in 2015—2016. (2015).Website of Russian’s Presidency in BRICS. April 6, 2015. The Embassy of the Russian Federation in the People’s Republic of China. Beijing, Jan.6,2016. DOI= www.russia.org.cn/eng/2738/31302196.html

The BRICS program of actions, indicated in the documents of its summits, provides assistance to Africa in the implementation of strategy for sustainable development, including food and energy security, new technologies, innovation policy; assistance in infrastructure building, a joint search of political systems models, social structures modernization. In addition, it includes such important for Africa issues as the environment, climate changes, responses to crises and conflicts.

Brics Trade Relations with Africa

Total BRICS trade with Africa rose from US\$22 billion in 2000 to \$340 billion in 2012; reached nearly \$350 billion in 2013 and was projected to reach \$500 billion by 2015⁷. In 2014 the total BRICS trade with Africa hit US\$376 billion, and SA Standard Bank estimated that it would rise to US\$400 - 420 billion in 2015 – a decrease on the estimates of US\$500 billion⁸. In 2013 BRICS members traded more with Africa than they did among themselves. China's share of the BRICS-Africa trade in 2013 was 61 percent, India's – 21 percent, Brazil's – 8 percent, South Africa's – 7 percent and Russia's – 3 percent⁹.

China has surpassed the United States to become the largest trade partner of African countries. Its trade with Africa has grown from US\$10 billion in 2000 to US\$220 billion in 2014 and almost \$300 billion in 2015. As Yang Fuchang, a former China deputy foreign minister said at the Fourth China-Africa Industrial Forum (CAIF) in January 2016, China-Africa trade will grow in 2020 to \$400 billion¹⁰.

India-Africa trade rose to US\$72 billion in 2014 from US\$46 billion in 2010¹¹. At the third Africa-India Trade Ministers Dialogue in 2013, the target for bilateral trade for 2015 was revised to US\$90 billion from \$70 billion, set at the first meeting. In 2014 India expanded a scheme for Leading Developing Countries (LDCs) to include 98 percent of tariff lines; it allowed African

⁷ UNECA.2013. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Africa-BRICS cooperation: implications for growth, employment and structural transformation in AFRICA. Addis Ababa. DOI=http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/publications/africa-brics_cooperation_eng.pdf

⁸ BRICS to face internal economic headwinds in 2014. 2014. DOI= www.engineeringnews.co.za/article-brics-to-face-internal-economic-headwinds-in-2014-2-14-01-22/article

⁹ Gumede, W. The BRICS Alliance. Challenges and Opportunities for South Africa and Africa. (2014) Global South.Shifting Power. Critical perspectives on emerging economies. September 2014. DOI= <http://www.tri.org/files/download/shifting-power-southafrica.pdf>

¹⁰ *China Daily*.2016. China-Africa trade approaches \$300 billion in 2015. China Daily com.cn. Jan.7. DOI= [chinadaily.com.cn \(business\)2015-11/10/content22417707.htm](http://chinadaily.com.cn/business/2015-11/10/content22417707.htm)

¹¹ Third India-Africa Forum Summit. 2015. Statement by External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj at Ministerial Meeting New Delhi, 27 October.2015.DOI= [iafs.in/ speeches-detail.php?speeches_id=229](http://iafs.in/speeches-detail.php?speeches_id=229)

countries to increase their export to India. A trade surplus of Africa with India estimated at just over US\$6 billion in 2014¹².

Brazil trade to the continent expanded from US\$4.3 billion in 2000 to US\$28.5 billion in 2013¹³. Lusophone Africa accounts for just 12.6 percent of exports and 5.5 percent of imports (mostly Angola)¹⁴.

Russia lags behind other BRICS countries in trade with Africa. According to the statistics produced by the Russian Federation, its trade turnover with Africa amounted to US\$9.6 billion in 2013 (Russian export – \$7.1 billion; import –\$2.5 billion) and US\$ 12 billion in 2014. African exports to Russia, account for only one percent of the exports to the BRICS countries. Russian exports to Africa have increased slightly and accounted for seven percent of BRICS exports to the continent.

The new BRICS member, South Africa's trade with other African countries in 2013 reached US\$25 billion (export – US\$16 billion, import – US\$9 billion). But trade statistics excluded South Africa's trade with Southern African Customs Union (SACU). With four SACU countries (Swaziland, Botswana, Lesoto and Namibia) South Africa–Africa trade may account \$38 billion¹⁵.

BRICS countries play a growing role in African trade. China is the second export market for Africa after the EU, India is the fourth, Brazil – the sixth. Three countries account for almost 22 percent of African imports (ten years ago –13 percent). African import from India grew annually by 23.1 percent, from China – by 25.6 percent, from Brazil – by 12 percent¹⁶.

BRICS Aid to Africa

China is undoubtedly a leader among BRICS countries in development aid to Africa. In spite of the problems in China's economy, which grew in 2015 at its slowest rate in 25 years, expanding 6.9 percent overall and 6,8 percent in the last quarter, Beijing is ready to increase aid to Africa¹⁷. After the UN declaration of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in December 2015 Chinese president Xi Jinping pledged to support the SDGs, saying, that China would set up a US\$2bn fund for South-South cooperation and would

¹² KPMG.2015. India and Africa collaboration for Growth. Confederation of Indian Industry. DOI=https://www.kpmg.com/In/en/IssuesAndInsights/Articles/Publications/Documents/India-Africa-Suimmit 2015

¹³ Muggah., 2015. What is Brazil really doing in Africa? World Post, 4 January. DOI= http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-muggah/what-is-brazil-really-doi_b_6413568.html

¹⁴ George. 2014. Brazil's trade with Africa. 9 April. Sao Paulo: Ecobank. Available at: http://www.ecobank.com/upload/20140617035947280312cgkaDWNv9b.pdf

¹⁵BRICS to face internal economic headwinds in 2014.2014. DOI= www.engineeringnews/za/article-brics-to-face-internal-economic-headwinds-in-2014 2-14-01-22/article

¹⁶ CII and WTO. 2013. Confederation of Indian Industry and World Trade Organization. India-Africa: South-South trade and investment for development. pp. 16-17. DOI= https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review13prog_e/india_africa_report.pdf

¹⁷ Gardner, H. Chinese economic growth in 2015 was weakest in 25 years. USA Today. Jan. 19. 2016. DOI=www.usatoday.com/story/money/markets/2016/01/18

increase investment in the LDCs to US\$12bn by 2030¹⁸. At the opening ceremony of the FOCAC meeting in Johannesburg in December 2015 Xi announced that China will offer the US\$60 billion for African countries during the next three years, three times as much as at the FOCAC-2012¹⁹. US\$60 billion package includes \$5 billion of aid and interest-free loans, \$35 billion of preferential loans and export credits, \$20 billion of capital to be divided between three Africa-focused funds²⁰. Areas, that receive funding, include industrialization, agriculture, infrastructure, drought-stricken countries etc. It is promised to cancel debts for Africa's LDCs in zero interest loans matured at the end of 2015. In 2014 China cancelled US\$30 billion in debts of 35 African countries.

Africa accounts for more than 60 percent of the credits offered by the India Exim Bank. India has given credits to the tune of US\$7.4 billion, of which \$3.5 billion has been disbursed. These credit lines have helped create 137 projects in 41 countries²¹. More than half of Brazil's technical cooperation resources were directed towards the continent in 2011. The Brazilian Agency of Cooperation (ABC) has developed 77 technical cooperation projects, more than half in Africa, with particular attention to the agricultural sector. Africa accounts for 60 percent of the aid allocated by the ABC. Brazil set up a national program for farm development that increased family-based agriculture and takes its experience to the African countries. A new field of Brazil activity in Africa – the biofuel production. Russian renders assistance to Africa mainly through international organizations and foundations. Russia has cancelled US\$20 billion in African debts. From 2009 to 2012 it provided US\$100 million to LDCs²². South Africa has positioned itself as a partner of African countries. President Thabo Mbeki was one of the initiators of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The director of Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University Swen Grimm called South Africa a 'medium-size' donor²³. The African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund provided funding of US\$45-\$75 million annually in approximately 20

¹⁸ Brautigam, Debora. 2015. Don't Get Excited: China is not the new superpower. China in Africa: The Real Story. November. DOI= www.chinaafricarealstory.com

¹⁹ Yang, Yang. 2015. Yearender: China Reaches out to LatAm, Africa for New Era Cooperation. BRICS Information Business Council. 24 December.

²⁰ Desjardins, J. 2015. Infographic Visualizing Chinese Investment in Africa. Visual Capitalist, Dec.15 2015. DOI= www.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-chinese-investment-in-Africa.

²¹ Vines, A. 2015. India's Interests at the Africa Forum Summit/From Deals to Deleverly? Chatham House. The Royal Insritute of International Affairs. 26 October 2015. DOI= <https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/india-s-interests-africa-forum-summit-deals-delivery#sthash.dkGNN0XB.dpuf>

²² Russia slashes African debt and increases aid. *RT.2012*. 18 October. Doi= <http://rt.com/business/russia-africa-debt-writeoff-705>

²³ Grimm S. 2013. South Africa: BRICS member and development partner in Africa. *China Monitor*, pp. 38-44. Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Stellenbosch. DOI= <http://www.brics5.co.za/assets/AAA3.pdf>

projects, in particular to support states emerging from conflicts (DRC and Sudan)²⁴

BRICS Countries as Investors in Africa

In 2010 the BRICS share in inward stocks of foreign direct investment (FDI) reached 14 percent and in FDI inflows to Africa – 25 percent. Among the top 20 investors in Africa in 2011, China, India, South Africa were ranked fourth, fifth and 17th in terms of FDI flows; South Africa, China, India and Russia were the fifth, sixth, seventh and 15th largest holders of FDI stock. In 2012 the total BRICS investment in Africa represented a quarter of the continent's total inflows. In 2014 foreign investment in Africa reached US\$80 billion. BRICS countries collectively held investments valued at US\$67.7 billion. China alone invested US\$27.7 billion -- almost half of what the BRICS invested²⁵.

For some experts, the BRICS engagement in Africa is driven only by the continent's natural resources. But according to UNCTAD, 75 percent of the value of BRICS FDI in Africa between 2003 and 2012 were in manufacturing and services²⁶. According to African Development Bank, in 2013 only 10 percent of the projects and 26 percent of their value were in the natural resources and the agricultural sectors²⁷. BRICS FDI in African projects in the manufacturing and services sectors promote job creation and industrial growth. The banking sector plays a significant role in financial cooperation between the BRICS and Africa. The creation of BRICS New Development

Bank (NDB), with an initial capital of US\$50 billion, which will grow to US\$100 billion, became a very important event for BRICS-Africa cooperation. The aim of NDB is to mobilize resources for infrastructure projects and sustainable development in BRICS countries, other emerging economies and developing countries, including Africa. The NDB and reserve a currency pool of US\$100 billion are alternatives to the World Bank and the IMF, where the North countries play the decisive role. The new bank demonstrates the changes taking place in the world. As M.Adomanis writes, “ten years ago the creation of such a bank would have been greeted with open derision and laughter in

²⁴ Tjonneland E. N. 2013. Providing development aid to Africa: comparing South Africa with China, India and Brazil. *SAFPI brief 25*. South African Foreign Policy Initiative. DOI= http://www.safpi.org/sites/default/files/publications/SAFPI_Policy_Brief_25.pdf

²⁵ Stevis, M. 2014. Foreign investment in Africa seen at record \$80 billion in 2014, Report show. African economy to grow by 4.3% in 2014, 5.7% in 2015. Wall Street Journal, May 19.

²⁶ UNCTAD. 2013. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The rise of BRICS FDI and Africa. Global Investment Trends Monitor. DOI=: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaeia2013d6_en.pdf

²⁷ African Development Bank. 2013. Africa and the BRICS: a win-win partnership? Tunis, 10 July. DOI= <http://www.afdb.org/en/blogs/afdb-championing-inclusive-growth-across-africa/post/africa-and-the-brics-a-win-win-partnership-12098/>

Washington, London, Paris, and other western capitals. They're certainly not laughing anymore'²⁸.

China is the top investor among the BRICS countries. Chinese direct investment in Africa grew from US\$500 million in 2000 to US\$32.4 billion in 2015²⁹. China plans to increase the stock of direct investment to US\$100 billion in 2020³⁰. More than 2.500 Chinese companies are doing business in Africa. Among them are China Railway Construction Corporation, China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), China National Offshore Oil Corporation and many others.

Sources estimate the stock of Indian investment in Africa at over US\$32 billion. Indian companies Tata, Mahindra and Mahindra, Ranbaxy Laboratories, Bharti Airtel are active in telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, construction and resources.

Brazilian investment in Africa remained relatively limited – between US\$10 and \$20 billion in 2011. Brazilian companies, visible in Africa: Vale do Rio Doce (Vale), which has invested about US\$2.5 billion, mostly in mining projects, Petrobras one of the world's leading oil companies, that invested US\$3 billion in Africa between 2009 and 2013, the construction company Odebrecht and so on.

The direct investments of Russian companies in Africa were estimated for 2012 in US\$9 billion. The volume declared for 2013 to 2020 was US\$17 billion. Up to 80 percent of Russian investment was directed to the exploration and extraction of natural resources. Eighteen major Russian companies have 40 projects in Africa, mainly in mining. Among them are Rusal, Lukoil, Renova, Evraz and ALROSA.

South Africa became a visible investor in Africa, particularly in the form of public-private partnerships. In 2012 SA invested in 75 African projects – the most valued at US1.4 billion making up 12 percent of the total FDI in the continent. Most investment by South African firms has been in services and consumer products³¹. South African companies play an important role in the energy, mining and food sectors in Africa. Among them are Sasol, a global player in energy and chemical industries, Anglo Gold Ashanti, the first South African gold extractor, agribusiness firm Tiger Brands .

²⁸ Adomanis M. 2014. BRICS Bank, Ukraine likely to dominate 2014 BRICS summit. BRICS Post, 9 July. DOI= <http://thebricspost.com/brics-bank-ukraine-likely-to-dominate-2014-brics-summit>

²⁹ Africa: China-Africa Summit. 2015. *All Africa*. December 6. DOI= allafrica.com/stories/12031600htm

³⁰ Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.2015. Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018). DOI= www.focac.org/eng/ltada/dwjbzjyhys1/t1327961.htm

³¹ African nations close ranks against South Africa. 2015. *Africland post*, April 18, 2015 DOI= www.africlandpost.com/african-nations-close-ranks-south-africa/

BRICS and African Infrastructure

Poor infrastructure is a major impediment to faster economic development in Africa. Xhanti Payi, a Johannesburg-based economist, told in 2015, that Africa needed in US\$90bn a year to meet its infrastructure development needs³². Infrastructure is among the priorities of the BRICS African policy. The eThekweni Declaration declared: “We will seek to stimulate infrastructure investment on the basis of mutual benefit to support industrial development, job-creation, skills development, food and nutrition security, poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa”³³.

During its visit to Kenya in January 2015, the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi said, that China will help Africa realize its dream of building a high-speed railway connecting the continent’s capitals. China inserts Africa in its project “One Belt–one Road”. Participation in this initiative can promote African infrastructure development. Through infrastructure development, China could both foster the growth of African countries and transfer its labor-intensive industries to Africa. This general focus on infrastructure seems to be confirmed by the signing of an MOU between China and the African Union on January 27, 2015. The ambitious agreement plans to connect all 54 African countries through transportation infrastructure projects, including modern highways, airports, and high speed railways. While these developments are not officially a component of “One Belt, One Road,” many in China have begun to draw linkages between the two³⁴. Kenya received from China US\$3.75 billion for the construction of Mombasa-Nairobi-Malabo railway, a key project in ‘Vision-2030’, national development strategy³⁵. This line is to be completed by 2017 with further extensions to Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. China has been awarded contracts for restoring the Benguela railway in Angola, for the construction the railway system from the interior Nigeria to the coast. Beijing intends to combine the TAZARA railway built by China in the 1960s, which connected the copper belt of Zambia to the Indian Ocean, with the Benguela railway in Angola to create an east-west corridor across the continent.

In September 2015 India extended US\$24 million to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire for the electricity interconnection project between this country and

³² Al-Jazeera. 2015. Africa: China Pledges \$60 Billion to African Development. Doha. DOI= allafrica.com/stories/201512050194.html

³³ BRICS 2013. BICS and Africa: partnership for development, integration and industrialisation. eThekweni Declaration, Durban, 27 March. DOI= <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

³⁴ Yun Sun. Inserting Africa into China’s One Belt, One Road Strategy: A new opportunity for jobs and infrastructure. Africa in focus. March 2. 2015.

³⁵ Ndonga W. 2013. Kenya-China pact a thrust for Vision 2030. CapitalFM, 20 August..DOI= <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/2013/08/kenya-china-pact-a-thrust-for-vision-2030>

Mali. The project adds 60 MW to Mali electricity networks³⁶. Indian firms play a significant role in the telecommunication industry of Africa.

Brazil has been involved in 38 infrastructure projects in Africa since 2000. Among them – the transformation of Nacala air force base in international airport and infrastructure in Moatize coal mine in Mozambique, a highway, connecting Mozambique and Tanzania, etc.³⁷.

Through its President Infrastructure Initiative, South Africa is engaged in nine African projects and is financing two of them. A company Transnet was investing US\$39.1 billion for seven years to develop South Africa's port and railway infrastructure. Spoornet, with shares of 80 percent in African railways, was reconstructing the rail line linking Ethiopia and Eritrea. The South African government has allocated US\$1.5 billion for constructing the railway between South Africa and Swaziland, which costs US\$2 billion.³⁸

'Soft power' in BRICS African Policy

The human resources receive special BRICS attention in Africa. The BRICS long-term goal is to form African elites, oriented on South-South cooperation. BRICS embraces such spheres as health care and education. On 24 October 2014, President Xi Jinping announced an assistance package of US\$81.7 million to fight Ebola³⁹. To assist the development of human resources in Africa, China proposed the African Talents Program to provide training for 30.000 professionals in various fields. In 2012- 2015 China trained 30.173 specialists in different fields. In 2012 scholarships for education in Chinese universities were granted to 20.000 Africans, in 2016-2018 – to 30.000⁴⁰. By 2012, US\$2.8 billion had been spent on Indian Technical and Economic Training Programs in Africa (more than 300 training programs in over 60 reputed institutions). In the past seven years a total of 40.000 scholarships have been provided by India to Africa. Since 2013 the figure stands at over 24.000 scholarships⁴¹. India is engaged in creating a single

³⁶ KPMG.2015. India and Africa collaboration for Growth. Confederation of Indian Industry. DOI=https://www.kpmg.com/In/en/IssuesAndInsights/Articles/Publications/Documents/India-Africa-Suimmit

³⁷ UN office of Special Adviser on Africa (2015). Infrastructure development within the Context of Africa's cooperation with new and emerging development partners. NEPAD transforming Africa. DOI=www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/pubs/2015 infrastructureanddev.pdf

³⁸ Phatkathi M. 2012. Swaziland-South Africa: new railway line to boost economies. Inter Press Service, 17 January. DOI= http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/01/swaziland-south-africa-new-railway-line-to-boost- economies

³⁹ Shan J. 2014. China pledges US\$81.7 million Ebola aid to Africa. Asia News Network, 25 October. DOI= http://www.asianewsnet.net/China-pledges-US\$81-7-million-Ebola-aid-to-Africa-66476.html

⁴⁰ Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (2015). Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018). DOI= www.focac.org/eng/ltada/dwjbzjyhys1/t1327961.htm

⁴¹ Third India-Africa Forum Summit. 2015. Statement by External Affairs Minister Smt.Sushma Swaraj at Ministerial Meeting New Delhi, 27 October.2015.DOI= iafs.in/speeches-detail.phpspeeches_id=229

African system of fiber-optic and electronic communications to provide educational and medical support to African countries, remotely via satellite technology. By 2013, 12 super specialty hospitals were connected to 48 African hospitals where 460 tele-consultations and 2.500 medical education sessions had been conducted. Simultaneously, 47 training centers were connected to five Indian universities, and nearly 10.000 students had signed up for various courses and more than 3.500 tele-education sessions had been conducted. Now an Indian-managed Pan-African e-Network for education and health is functional in 48 countries⁴². In 2011 Brazil signed 53 bilateral agreements on health care with 22 African countries. In 2011 Brazil signed 53 bilateral agreements on health care with 22 African countries. With its rich experience in tropical medicine, it has invested in specialized health centers on the continent. With the assistance of the Oswald Cruz Foundation, leading medical research institute, Brazil invested about US\$23 million to create a factory to produce generic drugs for treating HIV/AIDS. The factory started its operations in 2012. It produces 21 types of medicines to fight HIV/AIDS, firstly for Mozambique, later – for other African countries. Brazil has provided scholarships for African students for education in Brazilian institutions. It helped Cape Verde create its first public higher education institution and inaugurated the Afro-Brazilian University of Integration, opened to African students and professors. Russia's has contributed US\$235 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, US\$20 million to the World Bank program against malaria in Africa and US\$18 million to support the World Health Organization action against polio. In 2014 Russia paid US\$30 million to the fund to fight Ebola. Russia is also involved in educating and training professionals. It allocated US\$43 million for the World Bank international program to improve the quality of basic education, which was initiated by Russia. Some 8.000 African students were educated at Russian universities, half of whom were paid by the Russian government⁴³. Russian government grants annually 750-800 scholarships to African students for study in Russian universities.

In 2003 SA Aspen Pharmacare launched the first antiretroviral drug developed and manufactured in Africa. Now Aspen is one of the leading global players in generic antiretroviral drugs⁴⁴.

⁴²Vines, A. 2015. India's Interests at the Africa Forum Summit/From Deals to Delivery? Chatham House. The Royal Institute of International Affairs. 26 October 2015. DOI= <https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/india-s-interests-africa-forum-summit-deals-delivery#sthash.dkGNN0XB.dpuf>

⁴³ UNECA 2013. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Africa-BRICS cooperation: implications for growth, employment and structural transformation in AFRICA. Addis Ababa. DOI= http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/publications/africa-brics_cooperation_eng.pdf . Pp. 16-18.

⁴⁴ Maritz J. 2014. "Four South African companies taking on the world." How We Made It in Africa, 29 September. DOI= <http://www.howwemadeditinafrica.com/four-south-african-companies-taking-on-the-world/43690/>

BRICS and African Security Problems

BRICS countries take part in conflict resolution on the African continent. They are very active in UN peacekeeping. On 31 December 2015, according to the UN, 7,798 peacekeepers from India, 1,231 from Brazil, 2,131 from South Africa, 3,045 from China and 80 from Russia participated in peacekeeping operations in the hot spots of the world⁴⁵. China is the highest contributor of peacekeepers among the members of the UN Security Council. The South Sudan crisis pointed out China's emergent peacekeeping role. The team of 331 officers and soldiers made a significant contribution to the conflict-ridden country in 2011. But the UN mission to Mali in 2013 was the first where the Chinese had combat mandate. During a conflict in South Sudan in May 2014 Beijing sent there 850 soldiers⁴⁶. China has declared the desire to extend its military presence in Africa connected with necessity to defend Chinese citizens, becoming the sacrifices of terrorists. Xi Jinping announced at 70-th Session of UN General Assembly in December 2015 that China will contribute 8,000 troops to a UN peacekeeping standby force. He pledged US\$100 million over five years in military assistance for AU peacekeeping mission and committed US\$1 billion over 10 years to a joint China-UN Peace and development fund⁴⁷. In the first Chinese military strategy white paper, outlining a new policy of 'active defense', is said, that the Chinese army would 'adapt itself to tasks in different regions, develop the capacity of its combat forces for different purposes, and construct a combat force structure for joint operations'⁴⁸. November 2015 China has signed a 10-year contract with Djibouti on establishing its military base in this country. The base allows docking ships at Djibouti ports to conduct naval patrols and gives China an airfield to improve its intelligence gathering capabilities over the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Eastern Libya and Central Africa⁴⁹. India's contribution in peacekeeping is the third largest in the world and the top among BRICS members. India renders aid to African countries in the struggle against the terrorist threat. It is training the Nigerian soldiers for participating in operations against Boko Haram. India and China are engaged in the struggle against piracy on the coast of Somalia. Brazil also participates in UN peacekeeping in Africa. As of April 2015, it had eight observers in the UN mission in the Western Sahara, three peacekeepers in the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei, four – in the UN Mission in Liberia, ten – in the UN Mission in South

⁴⁵ UN Peacekeeping. 2015. Troop and police contributors as of 31 December. DOI= www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml

⁴⁶ Sapa-AFP.2014. China will send troops to South Sudan. IOL News, 30 May. DOI= <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/china-will-send-troops-to-south-sudan-1.1696410>

⁴⁷ Huang K.L. 2015. Chinese President Xi Jinping Pledges 8,000 UN Peacekeeping Troops, US\$1 billion to Peace Fund. Nov.20. DOI= <http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence-article/1862255/chinese-president-xi-jinping-makes-us-1-billion-pledge>

⁴⁸ Document: China's Military Strategy. 2015. Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China. Beijing. *USNI News*. May 26, 2015. DOI= newsusni.org/2015/05/26/document-chinas-military-strategy.

⁴⁹ Wong,K. 2015. China's military makes move into Africa. 11/24/2015. *TheHill*. htm.

Sudan and six – in the UN Operation in Cote d’Ivoire⁵⁰. Russia is not among the leading actors in UN peacekeeping, although its peacekeepers take part in all the UN missions in Africa. It participates in African peacekeepers training. The number of Africans annually trained in Russia has increased to 400. South Africa ranks third among the BRICS countries in the number of peacekeepers it provides to UN missions. It also uses its diplomacy and political influence by sponsoring peace talks and participating in the settlement of conflict situations on the continent.

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⁵⁰ UN Peacekeeping. 2015. Troop and police contributors as of 31 December. DOI=www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml

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