

XV SUMMIT



**SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA,
NICOLÁS MADURO MOROS**

■ Johannesburg, South Africa August 24, 2023

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Nicolás Maduro Moros**

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Speech by the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros

Distinguished colleague Cyril Ramaphosa,

**President of the Republic of South Africa and President
Pro Tempore of the BRICS**

Dear President Xi Jinping **of the People's Republic of China**

Dear President and colleague Lula da Silva

President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Esteemed Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi

Respected President Vladimir Putin

I would like to express enthusiastic greetings on the occasion of this historic fifteenth Summit of emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, which has been laying very strong foundations for the creation of a truly free, inclusive, just, and supportive new global system. This new system aims to restore the principles of international law, which have been threatened by the old hegemonic imperial system.



Venezuela sincerely appreciates the gracious invitation extended to us by South Africa, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the BRICS, to participate in this historic Summit and contribute to the “BRICS+ Outreach Dialogue.” I am delighted to convey the admiration

and recognition of the Venezuelan people toward the people and governments of the BRICS countries: nations that have taken the lead in building a world of peace and economic prosperity, based on the support for civilizational diversity.

In this regard, it is important to recall the words of the great Nelson Mandela, spoken on May 24, 1994, during his Inaugural Address. Just days after assuming the presidency of the new post-apartheid South Africa, he called for the “establishment of a new world order of cooperation, justice, prosperity, and peace, mutually beneficial for us and for the nations of the world,” as Nelson Mandela affirmed.

As we gather here, with Venezuela participating in this historic BRICS Summit, I am reminded of Commander Hugo Chávez, who, along with other world leaders, raised their voices for decades in the pursuit of a new international order—political, cultural, and economically sustainable.

In this context, we recall the also historic BRICS-UNASUR Summit, held on July 15, 2014, in Brazil. We were present there, a country that presided over this powerful bloc of emerging economies that year. The summit facilitated progress in designing a new geopolitics, creating a new global map for political, financial, economic, and energy cooperation.

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I am very pleased to also convey the admiration and recognition of all the people of Venezuela towards the peoples and governments of the BRICS: countries that have taken the vanguard in building a world of peace and economic prosperity, based on the support to civilizational diversity
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Today, we are convinced that this new world order is a reality, and the BRICS play a fundamental role in the geopolitical dynamics that have fostered trust among the peoples and governments of Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. With their development model and values of mutual respect, the BRICS countries rep-



31,7% 

PIB mundial

43% 

of world population

30% 

Territory it occupies on the planet

18% 

world investment

resent 31.7% of the global GDP, 30% of the territory, 43% of the population, and 18% of international trade. These nations control 8.7% of the world's oil reserves, 25.2% of gas reserves, and contribute 40% of global energy, 42% of renewable energy usage, and 37% of energy consumption. Undoubtedly, unity is strength, and this collective



strength drives a new paradigm of global relations and propels a new 21st-century world geopolitics.

Esteemed Presidents and Prime Ministers, Your Excellencies,

Venezuela joins the aspirations of countries seeking to join the BRICS. We officially expressed this in a letter in 2015 and recently reaffirmed it. We are willing to contribute to this global integrative model with our country's vast certified oil reserves, among other riches.

Furthermore, our nation possesses abundant mineral resources, accounting for over 20% of global reserves of iron, copper, and gold, as well as deposits of silver, bauxite, coltan, nickel, rhodium, titanium, among others. Additionally, our privileged geographical position in northern South America adds to our potential.

Out of the 23 aspirants in the potential BRICS expansion process, 7 of us are members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which supplies

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a crucial portion of the global market and collectively holds 77% of the world's oil reserves. The inclusion of these OPEC nations in the BRICS group would ensure control over 83% of proven global oil reserves, not to mention the proven reserves of non-OPEC and OPEC+ countries. Concerning global gas reserves, out of the 23 BRICS aspirants, 7 are part of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, including Russia. This forum manages 72% of the world's gas reserves and supplies 44% of the global market.

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Venezuela’s accumulated experience in the face of illegal imposition of criminal sanctions and unilateral coercive measures is another vital aspect we are prepared to share with the BRICS group and its friends. **Recent years have highlighted the need to progress in the process of global economic de-dollarization, considering the rampant and indiscriminate use of the US dollar as a mechanism of economic warfare against the free peoples of the world.** Recent studies have shown that at least 30 nations, representing 28% of the global population—around 2.178 billion human beings—are affected by imperialist sanctions and other extortionary measures and economic warfare. The damage to

our economies and development models is undeniable. The implementation of these measures negatively impacts the enjoyment of Human Rights, as recognized by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2023.

Colleague Presidents and Prime Ministers,

From Venezuela, we come together to shape a new financial architecture that allows for transactions with innovative physical and digital means and a wide range of national currencies. This would provide access to new forms of financing that contribute to the recovery and growth of our economies. In Venezuela’s case, a growth projection of over 5% in 2023, the highest in the



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region according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

It is our desire to join the BRICS Think Tanks Council to contribute our modest experience to counteract the harmful effects of Western sanctions on the world economies, as well as to dismantle the financial and commercial domination system. Furthermore, we undertake the responsibility of promoting political and economic relations between the BRICS architecture and the key mechanisms of consultation and cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Among these mechanisms are the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America - Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) and the Com-

munity of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), aiming to advance the formation of regional blocs, as envisaged in the historic 2014 BRICS-UNASUR Summit.

The consolidation of these ambitious alliances requires a high level of people's awareness about realities, strengths, and capacities for united progress. To that end, we propose strengthening the communicational alliance by revitalizing cooperation between TV BRICS and teleSur, the Latin American and Caribbean multimedia and multi-state platform.

Colleagues, Your Excellencies,

Since its inception, BRICS has been conceived with an inclusive and complementary vision, with the multilateral system at its core, including the World Trade Organization and its reform. It supports the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises, integrating them into global value chains, and expanding cooperation in the fields of digital economy and green development, among other actions.

Therefore, the call to expand its membership represents hope for those of us with the noble and modest aspiration to contribute from various perspectives to becoming part of a new development model. This model has been growing under the leadership of BRICS and undoubtedly finds a momentous impetus toward the future in this grand gathering in Johannesburg.

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Two hundred years ago, during the struggle for our independence, the independence of the Americas, our Liberator Simón Bolívar envisioned the construction of what we could now call a multipolar and pluricentric world, as he said, to achieve the long-awaited universal balance. I sincerely believe that with the emergence of BRICS, we are closer than ever to realizing Simón Bolívar’s dream—the dream of a Greater Homeland, the dream of a global homeland.

Therefore, President Ramaphosa, I reaffirm our wholehearted willingness, support, and gratitude for being invited to this historic Summit. Venezuela takes a step forward with BRICS towards a world of peace, cooperation, and the 21st century. And from the heart, we declare: Long live the peoples of the Global South!

Thank you very much.

Nicolás Maduro Moros

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200 years ago, in the middle of our fight for our independence, for the independence of America, our Liberator Simón Bolívar considered the construction of what we could call today a multipolar and pluricentric world, as he said, to achieve the desired universal balance
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