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**BRICS Is Forming the Expanding Geopolitical Space Capable to Provide
Global Sustainable Development Based on the Dialogue and Partnership of
Civilizations**

After the disintegration of the USSR and the world socialist system, dangerous trends manifested themselves in the 1990s, they were the monopolization of the active forms of dialogue and exchange between civilizations in the interests of the richest countries from the “golden billion”, imposing the system of the Western values on the other states and civilizations, including with the widespread use of means of violence up to the armed forces. There was a threat of the clash of civilizations which was reflected in the acclaimed then monograph by the American political scientist Samuel Huntington *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* [1]. The UN announced the year of 2001 to be the Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations on the initiative of the President of Iran Mohammad Khatami as the answer to this threat. However, by a twist of fate the confrontation between civilizations intensified sharply, and that was manifested in the tragic events on September 11, 2001 in the city of New York and the spreading of international terrorism. All that was a direct consequence of the attempt to establish the unipolar world order, with the United States enforcement and dictate, with imposing the Western system of values, including democratization of the state life according to the Western patterns, on the other countries and civilizations.

So, in the end of the 20th century, the world entered the era of the historical rift, long and deep global crisis stipulated by the change of the extra-long civilization cycles – the decline of the 200-year long industrial civilization and establishment of the humanistic noospheric integral global civilization, transition from the 500-year long fourth generation of local civilizations with the

dominating West to the fifth generation with the dominating East [2]. One of the manifestations of the global crisis is a sharp escalation of contradictions between the rising civilizations and the leading powers with China and Russia at the head, laying the foundations of the integral civilization, and world powers with the United States and the European Union at the head, striving to preserve doomed to retire from the historical scene industrial civilization and establish the unipolar world order with the United States' hegemony.

However, the attempts to establish the unipolar world order were in contradiction with the course of the historical process and development of civilizations, and because of that they were destined to fail, and that was witnessed in the last decade. The United States were fairly aggressive in their relation to the rest of the world in connection with the beginning process of losing the status of the sole global leader that turned out to be so short-time. It is not surprising that the United States first of all turned against Russia and China that dared to challenge the adventurist domination of the United States in the world. Strengthening friendship and cooperation between Russia and China in every possible way is especially irritating for the United States. Because of that the United States and their European allies put unprecedented pressure on Russia and China. The proxy war in the Ukraine imposed on Russia by the collective West is aimed at weakening Russia in order to "push out" Russia from the list of the great powers. And the West launched real trade wars against China and imposed severe sanctions limiting access to the critically important technologies. However, all these measures of the collective West only accelerated Russia's and China's movement to economic and technological sovereignty [3].

The history of mankind certifies that during the periods of civilization crises confrontation and clash of civilizations intensify, and dialogue and partnership of civilizations are predominant during the periods of sustainable development, and vice versa, when there is active dialogue and fruitful

partnership of civilizations and the leading states get going, the sustainable world development is witnessed [2]. The partnership of civilizations becomes especially important during the periods of exit from the civilization crisis and transfer to a relatively sustainable development. Today, the world is undergoing exactly such a period, which, most likely, will be going on for one more decade up to the early 2030s. All that put the necessity of the accelerated formation of a new just world order based on dialogue and partnership of civilizations, with their equality and taking into account their mutual interests, in front of the vanguard of the developing world. Creating inter-civilization and into-state associations of the new type – BRICS and SCO initiated by Russia and China – became the answer to these challenges.

It was demonstrated in papers [2-5] that, first, the 21st century is the century of local civilizations that are becoming the main actors on the political scene instead of the “concert of nations” that played the key role in the 19th and the 20th centuries. Currently, the number of nation-states is approaching 200, while there are only 12 local civilizations, this number may increase up to 15 or 18 by the middle of the 21st century, taking into account possible differentiation of the Moslem civilization [2].

Second, the inter-civilization association BRICS is the center of crystallization of the new just global and regional multipolar world order, with the UN leading role. The relations of states inside the association are exceptionally democratic and equal. The BRICS countries are originally against interference in the internal affairs of other countries, they do not impose their ideological standards and they do not export colour-coded revolutions [3-5]. Exactly because of that BRICS as a global geopolitical association aimed first of all at the equal economic integration of the member states, providing just terms of trade without limitations and sanctions, is the most attractive format for emerging nations today. Because of that it is not surprising that there are over 30 states standing in line of those wishing to join BRICS.

Third, the increase of the middle class in the countries of BRICS+ will become the determining trend in the global economy for the next 30 year, with degradation and decrease of the middle class in Western countries as the background [3]. BRICS has become the global leader in the rates of economic growth, investments in the fixed productive capital, production of high-tech and high-quality products. Besides, it is exactly the BRICS countries that lay the foundations for the integral economic and socio-cultural social system based of equal dialogue and partnership of states and civilizations, and coming to replace the going down in history industrial civilization [2]. Thus, BRICS is becoming the natural Locomotive of the developing world.

In the 1990s and 2000s, the economies of the BRICS countries were strongly dependent on the import of the Western innovative technologies to produce high-quality consumer goods as well as on the consumer demand of the middle class of the developed countries for these goods. In the recent decade, as we saw above, the state of affairs changed cardinally – the domestic demand in the BRICS countries increased sharply [3]. The vanguard BRICS countries, first of all China, convincingly demonstrated that they are capable to harness the basic technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution – digital technologies and the Artificial Intelligence, and to create a competitive and digital economy. And the main important thing is that the BRICS countries demonstrated that they are capable to maintain the long-term sustainable economic development even in the environment of geopolitical instability and geoeconomic fragmentation of the last decade. They demonstrated that both during the 2008–2009 world financial and economic crisis and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In paper [6], we presented the terms and conditions providing long-term global sustainable development at another long wave of Kondratyev's global economic development (2020–2050):

1. Social justice requiring just distribution of incomes in the society, decrease of inequality of incomes down to the socially acceptable level and provision of just access to basic social services.

2. Just harmonious globalization implying equal participation of states in globalization processes and just trade relations between developed and emerging countries, without sanctions, limitations, protectionism.

3. Stability of the financial system, providing sustainable investment of financial capital into real economy, in innovations. Effective state regulating is required in this most important field in order not to allow origination of financial bubbles, generating crisis phenomena and recessions in economy. It is inadmissible to use global currencies as weapons in geopolitical struggle.

4. Convergent development of the global economy calling for cooperative state measures for optimal placement of production forces and effective formation of the global demand for goods and services as well as investments into development of infrastructure and social sphere. It is required to provide emerging nations with a wide access to general-purpose technologies and direct foreign investments.

5. Ecological imperative requiring coordinated, active and efficient efforts of the whole global community for the balanced provision of the growing population of the Earth with all the necessary resources – drinking water, food, clean energy, etc. with no damage to the environmental ecology, with no further worsening of the Earth biosphere's condition and climate change.

In the 20th century, the world economy's development was determined by the most developed countries of the West with the United States at the head that in the past united into the G7 group. They also determined the long-term sustainable development at the global level. But now, in the second quarter of the 21st century, the leadership transfers to the BRICS association. It is also capable to provide all the above-mentioned conditions required for the sustainable global development. It is important that the economic potential of

the BRICS countries is considerably growing in recent years at the expense of expansion of trade turnover and mutual investments between member states. This is extremely important in connection with the United States creating the “collective Western bloc” from its allies that fences off all emerging nations wishing to get rid of the tough American control and be guided by their own interests. Because of that the emerging nations joining BRICS are united by their wish not to depend on ideological and other whims of the United States and their allies in G7 dominating in the traditional international financial and trade organizations – the World Bank, IMF and WTO.

Thus, gradually, BRICS has turned from the informal international forum created on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in 2006 into a fairly authoritative inter-civilization association that is beginning to significantly affect the expanding processes of just globalization and establishment of the multipolar world order. BRICS has already become the firm basis for the formation of a new multipolar world order. Now, the task of BRICS is constructing the main load-bearing supports for the future just world order. As mathematicians say, the bifurcation point has been passed [5], and after 2022–2023 this global process became irreversible. The role of BRICS as a global consolidating leader is also increasing, in particular in G20, opposing the United States and G7 attempts to preserve with crude force and aggression the global domineering of the West and its system of civilization values, not answering the further progressive development of humankind. In this environment, the emerging nations can only unite around BRICS more closely and take active part in formation of the just multipolar world order for the benefit of mankind. Then BRICS has every chance to become the locomotive of the sustainable global development in the second quarter of the 21st century.

The statements about BRICS given in the last paragraph are based on the following facts and suppositions:

First, 2022 became the turning-point year for the BRICS association – the share of the countries' GDP amounted up to 31.5% of the global GDP and for the first time exceeded the GDP share of the group of developed countries G7 that decreased down to 30.7%.

Second, in 2023, the second wave of 5 member states joined the group, and that considerably expanded the geopolitical potentialities of the association. The aggregate BRICS GDP rose up to 36% of the global GDP, and the total population of the member states already amounted to 46% of the global population. And the rapid growth of the number of countries wishing to join BRICS already amounting to 40 certifies that the BRICS authority has incredibly increased on the international scene, and that it is attractive for emerging nations.

Third, 2024 chaired by Russia may become the historic milestone in BRICS history as expected by the global expert community. Russia organizes the summit under the motto of strengthening the versatility for the just global development. Russia plans to do everything possible for the new BRICS members to feel its advantages in comparison with other international associations. Russia is getting ready to assist in every possible way for the third wave of states to join BRICS+. Russia also intends to deepen the dialogue and interaction in the fields of culture, sports and youth exchange.

In future, BRICS may turn into a global organization of the new age – the United Civilizations Organization!

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