

BRICS VISION DOCUMENT AND THE QUESTION OF COMMON SECURITY

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BRICS



- ✗ BRICS countries - so different in so many ways (culturally, geopolitically, demographically)
- ✗ **BUT:** BRICS countries aspire to be “global rule-makers instead of rule-takers”
- ✗ **AND** unifying characteristic: notion of sovereignty of states against foreign intervention



BRICS Academic Forum themes

- × Terrorism
- × Cyber-security
- × BRICS Armed Forces as tool for intl cooperation
 - What about the AU African Standby Force?
 - African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises
 - Peacekeeping: South Africa key regional actor: DRC, Burundi, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Darfur, Côte d'Ivoire, and Liberia
 - SANDF: manpower constraints, ca. R7.5 billion to R14 billion above current defence spending needed



Other themes

✗ UNSC Reform

- since Yekaterinburg 2009, BRIC(S) "reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN with a view to making it more efficient so that it can deal with today's global challenges more effectively. We (...) support their aspirations to play a greater role in United Nations"

✗ Peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding

- 2013 eThikiwini Declaration introduces Africa
- why "African" security matters: e.g. Brazil trade raised from US\$4.2b to US\$27.6b over 10 yrs; oil and other natural resources account for 90% of Brazil's imports from Africa, Africa's potentially consumer market for Brazil's manufactured goods

The sleeping dog and the elephant in the room



- × Questionable common principles:
 - × Mutual respect & non-interference in each other's internal affairs
 - × Non-confrontation
 - × Opposition to use or threat of force in intl relations
 - × Centrality of multilateralism on global issues
 - × Mutual respect for each other's choice of dev. path
 - × Openness
 - × Pragmatism
 - × Solidarity
 - × Non-bloc nature
 - × Neutrality with regard to third parties





"If diplomacy is to succeed, it must be backed both
by force and by fairness"

*Kofi Annan, Ditchley Foundation Lecture
XXXV, 1998*

India & R2P



India

- opposed to interference in principal,
- but flexible enough to consider case-by-case

South Africa & *Protection of Civilians*



South Africa

- two sets of values
 - maintaining principles of national sovereignty and non-interference
vs.
 - insistence on primary objective is to contribute to democracy, human rights, and justice in the intl community

Brazil and *Responsibility while Protecting*



- ✗ Highlights need to consider consequences of intervention
- ✗ Sequencing three pillars
- ✗ Facilitated broader dialogue on R2P tools among variety of stakeholders

China & *Responsible Protection*



5 Principles of Peaceful Co-existence:

- mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity
- mutual non-aggression
- non-interference in each other's internal affairs
- equality and mutual benefit
- peaceful coexistence

Russia and *non-intervention*



Russia

- maintains “time-honoured principle of state sovereignty” & calls for pol. solutions to crises
- yet Georgia (2008) & Ukraine (2014) proof that position on non-interference not absolute, but based on self-interest

Challenges



- ✗ Lack of consensus among BRICS (& within UN) on when and how to apply R2P
- ✗ Tension: need for timely and decisive action vs. philosophical debate about how to intervene
- ✗ Critique of intervention offers no answers as to how UN should intervene instead. *What then?*



THANK YOU

