Strategic Alliances and Emerging Opportunities: Assessing the Benefits of Zambia's Membership in BRICS

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ABSTRACT

Zambia's probable accession to the BRICS grouping offers a strategic opportunity to expedite economic growth, diversify ties, and enhance geopolitical influence. Zambia, as a developing economy rich in natural resources, especially copper and cobalt, stands to gain significantly from enhanced trade, investment, and infrastructure development via partnership with BRICS member nations. Membership will provide Zambia access to alternative financial institutions like the New Development Bank, therefore reducing reliance on Western financial systems and presenting more advantageous conditions for development funding. Furthermore, accession to BRICS will amplify Zambia's influence on global economic and political matters, positioning it within a coalition that champions multipolarity and enhanced equality in international governance. This transition may promote innovation, facilitate knowledge transfer, and stimulate industrialization while creating new markets for Zambian exports. Enhanced cultural and diplomatic relations with BRICS countries may result in more educational exchanges and strengthened South-South collaboration. Strategic planning and alignment with national objectives are crucial to optimizing advantages and mitigate possible geopolitical problems. Zambia's accession to BRICS may significantly advance inclusive and sustainable national development in a swiftly changing global landscape.

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Introduction

The 15th Summit of BRICS Heads of State in Johannesburg formally welcomed Zambia to the membership. In a virtual speech to the Summit in August 2023, President Hakainde Hichilema thanked the present membership for their overwhelming support of Zambia's BRICS membership bid. Zambia's participation will enable better cooperation and partnerships with all members' businesses to achieve Zambia's strategic economic goals. To achieve the noble goal of delivering quantifiable benefits for 41 member countries and their inhabitants, the Zambian Government looks forward to faster engagement in BRICS working and specialized groups. Coordination with African regional groups would also give BRICS goals an African perspective (Rapanyane & Shai, 2019).

Zambia is a good candidate for BRICS membership due to its location, infrastructure, and historical links. Zambia will strengthen political discussion, collaborate on significant international and regional problems, and foster peaceful and stable communities by joining BRICS. BRICS participation will improve Zambia's macroeconomic stability, reintegration into the global financial and trade system, access to BRICS markets, and FDI. BRICS presents Zambia with a unique chance to become East Africa's commercial powerhouse, like Johannesburg's status in the south (Kim & Tukić, 2015). Better access to Africa's biggest economy would position Zambia to support regional commerce and investment. Improved market access will also boost domestic producers' growth and sustainability prospects as they can expand beyond a local focus, compete more fiercely, and invest heavily in productivity in anticipation of greater opportunities (Boulle and Chella, 2014).

Economic Growth Opportunities

Joining the BRICS group gives Zambia the possibilities to expand economically, address sustainable development issues, and promote human well-being. Geopolitical alliances are changing and strengthening, particularly in the Global South, affecting the global economy. Zambia is exploring ways to broaden its foreign relations beyond conventional bilateral alliances, including joining BRICS (Kim & Tukić, 2015). When created in 2009, the BRICS organization included Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. At the initial plenary session of the 15th BRICS Summit on August 24, 2023, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS, completing the first phase of growth. The next BRICS expansion phase will consider additional nations based on a set of criteria. The COVID-19 epidemic worsened emerging and developing economies, especially in Africa. Countries are struggling to revive their economy while dealing with pandemic health demands. Africa is projected to feel the pandemic's economic damage longer and worse. However, foreign financial institutions expect the African economy to grow rapidly in the medium to long term. Economic growth helps overcome these problems and improve citizen well-being for sustainable development. Therefore, Zambia may join this growing bloc of nations with comparable geopolitical, macroeconomic, and international development ideals. The advantages of BRICS participation are projected to be realized faster and more efficiently than previous global projects.

Increased Trade Relations

BRICS membership gives Zambia access to new export markets and investors, boosting its trade and investment prospects. Zambia may also reduce its dependency on the World Bank, the US, and the EU by accessing other finance choices. BRICS nations respect and understand each other and do not intervene in internal politics. Zambia must balance multiple conflicting forces and alliances between BRICS and Western allies while preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity. They provide access to a broader recovering market and allow further industrialization. Economic recovery is crucial for timely supply chain management and addressing new and current COVID-19 variations (Kim & Tukić, 2015).

Diversifying trade partners will also reduce the possibility of challenging Zambia's sovereignty and territorial integrity since the African Union chairship will provide Zambia with the biggest Covid vaccine market. Thus, joining BRICS will enable Zambia to access the new BRICS structures. BRICS nations founded the New Development Bank to supplement Western institutions and lend for infrastructure projects. Zambia is obligated to the World Bank, therefore joining might consolidate and expand existing institutions and cooperation frameworks as equal members (Carpintero, Murray & Bellver, 2016).

Foreign Direct Investment

Zambia, rich in natural resources, is a good BRICS target. Zambia, one of the world's most mineral-rich nations, is privatizing its mining sector, which presents great opportunities for FDI. South Africa ranks third in African FDI (Ngubo, 2016).

The BRICS want Zambian FDI. Zambia hosted USD 25 billion in BRICS inflows for mining, industrial, and financial projects. This was due to the mining tax regime review, which made foreign investors cautious in the telecommunications industry; the reorganization of ZAMTEL, Zain, and Vodacom; and Indian investors' rejection of building a USD 600 million factory (Rapanyane & Shai, 2019).

The BRICS have the same motives to invest in Zambia as many significant foreign investors due to their perceived fear of expropriation. Since Zambia does not have large BRIC enterprises, a BRICS move would help develop an investor brand for the BRICS. Zambia has strong liberalization policies, cheap interest rates, and a well-educated workforce like the nations that have received 35% of BRICS inflows. A successful BRICS entrance approach that led to local aid has depended significantly on small and medium-sized enterprises neglected by giant foreign corporations.

Zambia might benefit from business facilitation from the BRICS, most of which are not multinationals. Zambia allows developing market investments since the administration discourages Western investors. There appear to be fewer risk worries, and the BRICS have more experience with fair investment and bigger resources or readiness to combine smaller ones to acquire larger ventures (Carpintero, Murray & Bellver, 2016).

Access to New Markets

Zambia considers joining BRICS a smart move to new markets. Countries with substantial populations, GDPs, and resources make up the BRICS market. In GDP order, the BRICS nations are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. These nations have reliable energy, minerals, water, forests, and arable land. They dominate energy exploration, investment, and commerce. With 37.4%, BRICS has plenty of food. According to worldwide markets and consumer buying power, BRICS has 3.3 billion people or 44% of the world's population. This market's growth bodes well for its future. Zambia may get access to new markets by joining BRICS (Kim & Tukić, 2015). The Zambian government is negotiating to join BRICS due to its potential advantages. Zambia is also improving connections with China and Russia. Zambia works with Brazil and India in agriculture. Zambia's BRICS membership application shows its determination to participate in the global economy and access vast developing markets. Zambia hopes to get flexible and dependable development assistance by joining BRICS.

Political and Diplomatic Advantages

Zambia's BRICS membership allows it to build relationships with important southern economic economies. Today, global South countries are concentrating on political, diplomatic, and economic cooperation. Sub-Saharan African governments' UN General Assembly efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been hindered by global North resistance. Zambia's 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) national report included 2030 Agenda implementation. Canada narrowly rejected Uganda's debt relief resolution for seriously indebted nations 28–27. BRICS participation may improve diplomatic and political collaboration with global South economies, including Zambia, which has unsustainable public external debt. This may help Zambia interact with the global North (Kim & Tukić, 2015).

Zambia might collaborate with China, India, Brazil, and South Africa on food and energy security, COVID-19 pandemic recovery, and industrialization if it joins the HLPD Thematic Group-3. Common will in the global South may lead to win-win collaboration. Zambia has failed to benefit from global North collaboration, yet BRICS participation might benefit all global South advances. Thus, joining BRICS would allow Zambian political leaders to step up their political and diplomatic efforts.

Strengthened International Presence

Zambia's BRICS membership will boost its international standing. The idea that Zambia is at the bottom of the global South's pecking order because BRICS is a second-tier state is untrue. Over half of global growth and GDP come from BRICS, which comprise 67% of the population. Twenty percent of China's foreign investment is BRICS, forty percent of India's. Zambia's candidacy for BRICS membership suggests it can compete despite Sub-Saharan Africa's low and shrinking investment share. According to Kim and Tukić (2015), Zambia aims to reap the same advantages as other BRICS members, including investment opportunities, affordable loans, sustainable development partnerships, scientific collaboration, and trade revenue diversification (Carpintero, Murray & Bellver, 2016).

Richards must use vote and lobbying to dispel BRICS views of Zambia's minority. Dishonouring South Africa may hurt Zambia and favor India. Courtship is likely doomed by excessive inflation and state debt. Last month, Bairro 20, Janja, Garden, and expected vote heard coordinated government position on accessing possibilities. In neutral nations, the BRICS Presidency, departure worries from regional hegemons, and financial and education balance would lead to legitimacy dominos. Pragmatism prevents domestic treachery or Naftali Bennett's impression. Convincing antagonists, friends, and academics will be the biggest difficulty. The tone precedes showering on good news (Boulle and Chella, 2014).

Enhanced Bilateral Relations

Zambia may strengthen bilateral connections with BRICS members with strong economies by joining. Foreign direct investment is likely to increase with bloc membership, boosting economic growth. Zambia could finance infrastructure and entice multinational firms with more FDI. The multibillion-dollar Lusaka-Ndola dual highway building project, a joint equity participation arrangement for the Kafue Gorge Lower Hydro Power Station, and copper-belt mining and energy projects are among these investments.

Government support, favorable political, legal, and economic conditions, capacity and ability to make proposals, receptivity to Zambia's proposals, and financial resources for cooperation will all affect Zambia's ability to form beneficial bilateral relations with the BRICS states. Senior Zambian government officials' attempts to enhance BRICS cooperation would also affect these processes. Financial resources strongly impact Zambia-BRICS bilateral ties. Improving ties requires goodwill towards Zambia and its initiatives.

Zambia's connections with each BRICS countries are complicated and subject to change. Zambia's future connections with South Africa, China, and India seem promising. Zambia's potential to build bilateral ties with Brazil and Russia may face substantial challenges (Carpintero, Murray & Bellver, 2016).

Participation in Global Governance

Non-Western nations are democratizing international organizations to improve representation in global governance. Zambia can help create a multipolar, democratic world by joining BRICS. The high-profile BRICS summit allows BRICS member states to discuss and collaborate on developing nations' and emerging markets' social, economic, and technical issues. Zambia can actively participate in multilateral development institutions' efforts to increase BRICS countries' capacity to mobilize financial resources for inclusive and sustainable development, support liquidity and macroeconomic stability, and create a platform for complementary collaboration for mutual benefit and win-win results by joining the BRICS framework. Zambia can defend its stance and immediately address issues with accountable authorities via BRICS participation.

Zambia will help shape and structure discussions and initiatives to increase input into the BRICS framework, including roundtables with finance ministers, central bank governors, and business leaders, as well as regional BRICS enforcement of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement and liquidity and monetary policy. These advantages allow Zambia access to funding to organize its economy around capital goods less commodity-centric supply networks and more energy power. This debate will encourage Asia and Africa to negotiate with international organizations against such measures.

Zambia might offer legitimacy to BRICS Summit preparations or improve African cooperation, an unknown but prospective advantage. South Africa is the sole African BRICS chair, however, power disruptions at the end of 2022 prompted BRICS to support Power Beaming Antennae technology. Zambia, the first PBA in Southern Province, might serve Southern and Middle Africa and beyond. The FTA has been making gradual progress since 2005 in addressing non-tariff obstacles to trade between member countries. A good free trade agreement would integrate local demands with a hub-and-spoken Free Trade Area and agreements. Such cooperative trading space is crucial to promoting PBA as a low-cost energy source, rural electrification, and decarbonized fossil fuel alternative throughout the continent and beyond (Carpintero, Murray & Bellver, 2016).

Cultural Exchange and Cooperation

Cultural interchange and collaboration across science, innovation, arts, and sports improve people's livelihoods and promote international friendship, mutual understanding, and social cohesion. Zambia's entry encourages multi-party cooperation to build BRICS and establish its agenda. Zambia aims to collaborate with BRICS countries to improve political communication, trust, and direct involvement for inclusive prosperity and vibrant growth (Kim & Tukić, 2015).

Zambia addresses global and regional issues including terrorism, human trafficking, and cybercrime. Zambia also hopes BRICS and other like-minded nations will work together on these challenges, notably via the UN Africa Group. Zambia would support economic recovery and sustainable global growth by promoting the resilience and stability of global supply chains, improving financial regulation, transparency, and accountability to curb illicit financial flows, and leveraging the digital economy for development (Bond, 2017).

Zambia recognizes vaccination access disparities in the Global South. Landlocked countries with inadequate healthcare, medicine procurement, and export logistics would need large expenditures to meet North-set vaccine manufacturing criteria. Access to immunizations will help preserve continental advances (Boulle and Chella, 2014).

Cultural Diplomacy

The connection between a state and its international audiences dominates public diplomacy. It involves shaping others' foreign policy choices and offering exchanges and scholarships to establish a good image overseas. Campaigns include building or promoting a desired national identity, images, and messages, managing engagement and exchange platforms, and engaging international audiences including academics, youth, and the media via grassroots and elite campaigns. It involves several entities, not only foreign ministries.

Globalization in the post-1990s has made cultural diplomacy vital in the internationalization of arts and culture. Many cultural exchange platforms have been created, and in-depth cultural and art exchanges have occurred. Cooperation is institutionalizing. South Africa has shared information, improved multilateral collaboration, and deepened cultural understanding with other members.

Zambia has a rich culture and tradition. Zambia's varied cultural legacy may launch its economic resurgence. Zambians and Africans will live more peacefully via cultural diplomacy. Zambia recently spent considerably in cultural diversification development and management. Cultural resource conservation is governed by the National Heritage Conservation Commission Act. Tourism and hospitality training institutions exist, some fully operating.

Cultural diplomacy can help youngsters promote peace, tolerance, mutual respect, and African ideals of coexistence in heterogeneous societies. Zambian music, ballads, traditional dances, theatre, visual arts, ceramics, and other displays will increase resource mobilization for livelihoods. Recently, culture has gained worldwide prominence. Zambia lacks a legislative framework and cultural strategy for culture development.

Educational Partnerships

Zambia's education development is systematically influenced by BRICS and its goals. Education helps many. World leaders pledged to provide universal access to excellent education, recognizing its transformational power as the cornerstone for all development objectives. Zambia's BRICS stance Leadership in education will keep educational opportunities and systems on national and international development agendas (Bond, 2017).

All BRICS states must collaborate on global education and inspire other emerging nations to do the same. This includes forecasting the deployment of high-quality educational resources, mitigating the negative effects of natural disasters and global challenges on education, and supporting global educational governance and international human resource communication and cooperation. Zambia and other emerging nations are becoming more relevant in global education governance. The BRICS nations' educational plans and efforts are attracting attention. BRICS education efforts might vary from official conversations to informal cooperation (Boulle and Chella, 2014).

To successfully address global education concerns, BRICS countries must collaborate with other nations (Kim & Tukić, 2015). BRICS states may improve multi-lateral educational frameworks and procedures via these Global Action and Leadership Platforms. No BRICS countries have a permanent education-focused international organization. Thus, the BRICS Education Conference may build on existing educational frameworks and procedures, use other institutions' and organizations' knowledge, skills, and experience, and encourage educational planning and practice development across nations.

Tourism Development

Tourism is vital to Zambia's economy. Zambia has abundant natural resources, making it a top Southern African tourism destination. The government, stakeholders, enterprises, and NGOs work to promote Zambia as a tourism destination. But Zambian tourism is underutilized. Tourist attractions are one of the least used in Africa despite tourism infrastructure. When marketing Zambian cuisine-related goods and companies, consider the country's culinary tourism potential. Zambia has a diverse range of traditional foods with distinct flavors (Charzyński et al., 2017).

Zambia is a little-known and under-visited Southern African country. While it has fewer tourist attractions than neighboring nations, its national parks make it appealing. But a rudimentary tourism infrastructure has been created there. Zambia has great tourism potential since its natural resources are underexploited compared to Botswana, Namibia, and Kenya. Zambia has several intriguing and underrated natural and cultural attractions. Culinary tourism is crucial to many nations' economies, especially those that promote local ingredients and make tourist products from them (Rapanyane & Shai, 2019).

However, culinary events and restaurants with excellent native food would boost Zambia's appeal. Zambian culinary tourism is relatively young due to globalization, and few efforts promote native meals and beverages. However, the first Zambian cuisine festival, cookbooks, and periodicals featuring Zambian menus were produced in 2016, providing prospects for such projects. However, the state, local authorities, and organizations must work together with businesses to promote Zambian culinary tourism.

Technological Advancement

Joining BRICS may help Zambia improve technology. Zambia, like many other nations, wants to accelerate technological progress in many economic areas. This rapid transformation is designed to boost economic development, create employment, and reduce poverty. If Zambia wants to grow technologically, it may need to join BRICS.

No, since information drives growth and technical advancement drives wealth creation in the global economy. International competitiveness is increasingly based on knowledge rather than other production characteristics (Kim & Tukić, 2015). Zambia's slogan, Science and Technology for Development, is more relevant than ever since new technologies are needed to modernize agriculture, industry, leisure, the public sector, health, education, etc. In the modern international economy, no country can fulfill its technical demands using local resources alone. Thus, developing countries should participate in international technological cooperation, including foreign direct investment, commerce in commodities and services and human resources, contractual agreements, and research and development.

Zambia may achieve rapid technical progress by joining BRICS. Since BRICS nations want to improve mutually beneficial collaboration, they focus on technology transfer, development, and sharing and human resource development, including education, training, and youth exchanges. These aims are crucial for Zambia because they enable technological transfer, development, and sharing throughout its economy.

Access to Innovative Technologies

Zambia's membership in BRICS+ will provide new technology for exploring and using its enormous natural resources. The group's technologies will allow Zambia to "mine" data from its natural resources and turn it into valuable commodities, creating riches for its population. BRICS+ nations including Brazil, Russia, China, and India lead big data collecting and handling. Globally, BRICS+ countries have enough data sets and methods to analyze natural resource data (Kim & Tukić, 2015). Zambia can create a fair and beneficial resource exploitation paradigm using these technologies. With its entrance into BRICS+, Zambia will get data-aggregating and mining technology to sustainably harness, extract, organize, analyze, and share natural resource extraction data. Building institutional capacity at all levels of government, the public sector, and academia to develop conventional and innovative capabilities for a fair and equitable resource exploitation model is crucial.

Other natural resources stakeholders include abusive foreign governments, rogue states, and prominent business sector companies. Data mining allows Zambia to track all participants in this sector to prevent resource exploitation. Zambia may negotiate better with unethical partners by collecting data on how each participant uses the resource, increasing natural resource earnings. Besides improving state capability in the resource domain, data on how all parties interact with the resource would help Zambia award industrial licenses wisely by revealing suspicious players. One day, data mining will level the playing field. Thus, BRICS+ technologies will strengthen Zambia and enable it to play a major role in the global natural resource ecosystem by engaging with all stakeholders.

Collaboration in Research and Development

Zambia was accepted into the 2023 BRICS (Kim & Tukić, 2015) group. Zambia Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ZACSTI) leads the creation, harmonization, and implementation of national STI policies, strategies, and regulations. The African Union's African Strategy for STI promotes African development and helps them maximize their contribution to human well-being. AfriSTI Policy Conference in Addis Ababa in 2007 recommended the EU-APSTI Strategy, which was endorsed by the AU 14th regular session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments in February 2010. One of the EU-APSTI's major activities, the Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change, develops a 2050 vision for African and European climate change collaboration and establishes a monitoring and follow-up platform (Bond, 2017). As part of the Grand Challenges of Africa, creative science and technology support food systems and nutrition, climate change, water security and sustainable water management, energy, and Africa's response to global health crises. Regional and international cooperation on research, technology, and innovation should be explored to boost national human resources and infrastructural capabilities. African Organisation for Standardisation, African Academy of Sciences, African Union, and OECD research networks may address a country's and region's main challenges and demands via obligatory analysis; gain consent and engagement from competent national entities; reach above boundaries and develop regional proactive and project-based cooperation; seek and establish collaboration and share responsibilities with international organizations on important issues.

Sustainable Development Goals

Zambia has a chance to recommit to social inclusion, gender equality, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and economic growth while seeking structural change with the Sustainable Growth Agenda. Trade and investment are crucial to economic development, productivity, job creation, and poverty reduction. The growing BRICS nations have become one of the world's biggest economic generators, contributing to more than half of the world's economic growth and population. The role of Zambian social sectors in budgetary allocation and public finance management has been stressed (Boulle and Chella, 2014).

The present discussion over metallurgical cobalt and copper processing and the natural resource-based industrialization strategy provide optimism for improving Zambia's mining sector's contribution to inclusive economic growth and development. Investment in trained personnel is needed to help reduce employment success. Credible public institutions must budget mineral taxation revenues for productive investments for efficient public finance management. For the mining supply chain down-streaming to be successful, structural inequalities in mineral processing and marketing must be addressed, along with regulatory capacities to prevent industrial espionage and ensure technical compliance (Kim & Tukić, 2015).

Support for Environmental Initiatives

BRICS participation may also help Zambia's environmental programs increase resilience and adaptive management. Zambia has suffered from climate change. In 2023, 17.4 million people faced food-related climate shocks, particularly during the 2021-2022 drought and COVID-19 pandemic (Kim & Tukić, 2015). Zambia submitted its NDC on mitigation, vulnerability assessments, adaptation requirements, and planned actions at the late 2021 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Zambia estimates US$86 billion for 15 years of planned adaptation activities (2022–2030, 2031–2040, and 2041–2055). The 5-year pre-2030 planned measures may not meet the NDC objective due to resource constraints (Bond, 2017). Thus, non-conventional finance must be prioritized and encouraged to undertake measures. Zambia must continue to address resource mobilization, bankable projects that qualify for climate funding, institutional and technical competence, data, and estimates. Zambia may be helped by the UN to mobilize climate funding as other BRICS countries are listed as climate finance Providers and Coordinators of early warning systems, green financing, and climate-resilient infrastructure. BRICS uses multi-lateral development banks like the NDB, BRICS economic development banks, and China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to finance climate change. Finance, tech transfer, and supportive policies for climate mitigation and adaptation may be part of the partnership. Lusaka may use this to crowdfund massive climate financing (Rapanyane & Shai, 2019).

Investment in Renewable Energy

Zambia might get “green funding” for renewable energy projects via the BRICS. This might include many energy sources. Today, 90% of Zambia's electricity comes from 1980s-built hydroelectric power facilities. Insufficient rainfall in recent decades has caused an energy problem, causing Zambia to buy electricity from Namibia, South Africa, and Congo since hydroelectric power facilities are not running at full capacity Nikolaevna Gorkaltseva & Sinkala (2017).

The nation has strong solar radiation and 3000 hours of sunlight a year, making solar energy applications promising. Large solar power plants might attract investors. Wind energy is an excellent renewable energy. Wind farms may be erected on government or service assets since they are smaller than solar facilities. Geothermal energy from over 80 hot springs should be considered. This might be geothermal power plant cleanup and settlement.

Bioenergy is another investment priority. Zambians define bioenergy as biological fuel, not fossil. Agriculture, forest waste, animal waste, and city trash are energy crisis friendly. Biofuel investments are needed to boost the bioenergy industry and use biofuels in transport.

Decentralized mini-hydropower plants might provide mealtime energy. Tiny energy plants of up to 300 kWh might serve tiny towns. Consulting services might outline the timing and feasibility of establishing such facilities for target firms. Zambian corporations might build energy facilities. Early herbal farms should be built with investor businesses offering comprehensive, high-tech infrastructure.

Challenges and Considerations

Zambia and BRICS face chances and difficulties from joining. General BRICS concerns for Zambia are summarised first. Zambia must plan to maximize BRICS participation and prevent pitfalls. Importantly, Zambia's BRICS commitment requires continuing “one South” regional dynamics to maximize political and economic engagement in advantage-marketing activities. Second, as a prospective member, Zambia faces significant hurdles in which BRICS is implicated, including the gap between Zambia's government and BRICS committee aspirations, the significant investments in strategic adjacent Comesa states following a prior, government lack of priority accorded to China, and the impotence of other countries with vast economies to address size similarities. These interests may worsen with BRICS membership (Bond, 2017). BRICS shares these development traps, which became more apparent during the global crisis, as well as being in the area. More broadly, there are worries about China gaining domination and unrestricted access to Zambian resources and Zambia's moral authority in soliciting automobile and infrastructure investment from China while urging it to improve its behavior. Addressing external concerns may be Zambia's duty (Kim & Tukić, 2015). Thirdly, Africans struggle to understand Zambia's BRICS membership and its limited diplomatic interaction and tourism to Brazil, Russia, and India. Zambia is notably isolated in Africa, putting on-the-ground observation of non-progressive human connections in danger.

Zambia's BRICS prospects will suffer if it doesn't overcome these obstacles. These become metaphors when members acknowledge, debate, and strive to resolve them, although most enlargements have gone well. Therefore, Zambia's neutrality and number-leveraging have worked until a political-economic imbalance confronts them. Large indirect investment in such issues is justified despite being part of the BRICS group. Given the universal recognition of Zambia's issue, pushing BRICS to address infra-country scarcities like infrastructure, information, and appraisal in more favourable trade conditions seems promising. Intra-BRICS is concerned about providing Zambia with its club to test nations' economic and anti-colonialist strategies and intentions (Boulle and Chella, 2014). Unfortunately, they will climb. This approach may be pursued while considering endorsement and member association sensitivities (including China's danger of feeling singled out).

Economic Dependencies

Economic dependence defines the imbalance between rich and poor nations. The lack of local raw resources and labour prices makes the First Nation dependent. The weaker country's reliance increases as resource exploitation becomes simpler. Since the powerful nation can buy what it needs abroad, economic reliance isn't hegemonic. Insufficient resources might lead to exploitation or growth stability below the capacity of local processing (Kim & Tukić, 2015). It is believed that overexploitation, especially union repression, leads to globalization. However, this propensity may cause overproduction and demand shortages with serious local repercussions.

Over the ages, economically wealthy nations, frequently the core of the former colonial world, have created a sophisticated set of off-the-shelf anti-dependency strategies. Tax restrictions, national bank behavior, and stock market rules limit taxable economic transactions' breadth, revenue, and influence. Such tactics frequently cause asymmetric class strife (Bond, 2017). However, deficiencies are used to build policy acquisitions, which generally start with a “cooperation” program with neocolonial twists. Country-specific good governance generally includes cooperation and cooperation approaches. The categorization of nations and their adjustment efforts is organized around economic reliance generally defined.

Dependency and development need a series of political or economic policies for successful governance or initiatives. Although such measurements vary by nation, they will have enough common denominators for countries in comparable development phases and general development degrees. Different dependence policy acquisition plans result from grouping these peculiarities. Reference country-grouped programs may be used as policy samples. These include the predictability, flexibility, and operational reach of legislative directives and local enforcement mechanisms in long-term successful affluent nations, but they are not enough.

Political Risks

Zambia may face political consequences from joining BRICS. As the new multilateral organization facilitates the collaboration of nations with different political perspectives, BRICS may house counter or alternative ideological narratives that may damage Zambia's worldwide image, particularly its ties with the West. BRICS' opaque administration may appeal to Zambia but may encourage reckless politics. Zambia's legitimacy may be strengthened by BRICS' commitment to non-interference in reinforcing sovereignty (Kim & Tukić, 2015) in response to Western criticism. Zambia's ability to engage with non-state entities may be severely limited if member nations pursue internal politics without respect for universality. If internal criticism of the administration was seen as an assault on the nation rather than productive discourse, infighting would result (Bond, 2017).

PRIFRIGs could weaponize Brazil for backward-looking Western media hostile to the Zambian government, which is unfortunate and undesirable as Zambia seeks to balance relations with the West and the BRICS alliance is risky. If IRF is heeded, styling Zambia as “Jimmy Carter’s torn carpet” in the wake of coup attempts in or observed regional states could carry a heavy price.

Zambia's position in BRICS will be limited by Western antagonism that China may blame on Zambia or a regime change. Farfetched, foolish, or ridiculous recommendations might hurt Zambia's BRICS and other interests. Japan's generic appeal to BRICS followers or long-term, win-win ties with the US counter Sandton's self-centered global billionaire conference complex.

Cultural Adjustments

Globalization has made the globe more interconnected via foreign direct investment, multinational enterprises and processing firms, and international money flows. Thus, cultural uniformity is unavoidable. Cultural adaptations need one to negotiate, metamorphose, and use beyond the first clamor of stimuli and opposing forces and beyond precultured comprehension (Boulle and Chella, 2014). As reawakened people harmonize their worlds of knowing, feeling, and acting, they build a new interpretive perspective of the universe to stay informed about 'things' and the larger structure of reality that gives them meaning and life. This implies that when people change, interpersonal communication in groups, civilizations, and countries adjusts.

At the interpersonal level, changing how individuals say to themselves about each other will influence how others are viewed. Thus, inadequate reward systems will be questioned. Artists and builders creating and influencing the physical environment will increasingly be asked to explore alternatives in informal groupings. This setting may reveal hidden or prior views on dissatisfying settings. Due to collective adjustment, individuals' situational perceptions merge into a new worldview. Unplanned and unrestrained conduct may create an incompatible worldview. If enough doubt/adaptive confidence is present, the original worldview may break down into a larger one in which all previous viewpoints may still be important.

People improve their quality of life by culturally adapting to the semi-structure they lived previously. 'Quality of life' is the ability to thrive and connect with development, security, and acceptance, elements of human nature. Growth is the pursuit of everything that leads to a thriving internal or outer transcending of constraints. Existence without intangible repercussions is security. Acceptance involves fulfilling others and not punishing the tangible.

Case Studies from Other BRICS Nations

BRICS member nations improved intra-BRICS trade and investment cooperation, while Brazil, Russia, and India still face challenges. South Africa has had some success slowing investor outflow, but joint ventures are still being sought. Chinese investments and help are rising significantly (Kim & Tukić, 2015). BRICS and the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation are complimentary since South Africa is seen as a bridgehead for Chinese public and private entities (Wenzel *et al*., 2019). Due to considerable obstacles, establishing a strategic economic partnership with China is not as easy as expected.

South Africa's economic landscape is evolving swiftly, but awareness and information about the new players Chinese, Brazilians, Russians, and Indians have not. South African enterprises that have historically dealt with the developed world must now traverse BRICS and other emerging market participants. Consider emerging market firms entering South Africa. Failure to grasp each other's company methods, protocols, management techniques, prospects, and general modus operandi may result in lost resources and unsuccessful partnerships. Therefore, find the missing links to link Brazilian, Russian, Indian, Chinese, and South African businessmen and their state-related actors, review existing information bases to learn about unidentified players, and analyze a few bilateral trade-wise corners.

Brazil's Economic Growth

Poor nations have suffered in the global economy. The colonized nations are further impoverished by taxes, debt, and trade policies. BRICS participation might help Zambia with debt restructuring, rail connectivity to trade centers, and phosphate and copper mining for the global green energy revolution. BRICS will assist Zambia increase public finances to end poverty, provide healthcare, create infrastructure, and manufacture. Working with Botswana and Zimbabwe Railways, Zambia is extending its rail network to serve growing economies (Boulle and Chella, 2014). Zambia is one of 19 nations containing cobalt, a precursor for creating one of the most popular batteries, which BRICS members are urging to switch to green energy. Encouraging the BRICS to enter Zambia would aid the green transformation. BRICS activities provide alternatives to Western funders' development cooperation approach. Economic development enables domestic markets for traditional manufacturing, facilitating bottom-up growth. A model that replicates traditional manufacturing in new economies, structures, processes, methodologies, technology, and beliefs. The growth of warehousing economies offers the BRICS bloc chances for trade, servicing, and boosting member economies (Kim & Tukić, 2015).

India's Technological Innovations

Zambia would gain from joining BRICS by working with other member nations on development and mutual interest initiatives. Industrialization, infrastructure, education, health, trade, women & gender, water, climate change, energy, peace and security, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Joining BRICS gives Zambia more trade and investment options. With a growing market of 3 billion consumers and a combined GDP of USD 47 trillion, the BRICS member states offer Zambian exports great opportunities to diversify from Europe, North America, and South Africa and attract more investors. BRICS will give Zambia a greater voice in international forums and global governance change. Zambia and other African nations can bring a ‘developmental focus’ to the G20 forums that BRICS is currently actively engaging in and dominating (Boulle and Chella, 2014).

Zambia's voice on global problems controlled by the G7 and the West will strengthen with BRICS membership. Zambia will join the BRICS with a clear goal of altering global institutions to build a fairer society. Joining the BRICS co-operative group will increase Zambia's voice in global development discussions, where neo-liberal perspectives dominate and countries like Zambia receive unsolicited advice, loan conditions, and red tape (Kim & Tukić, 2015). Zambia may contribute its development viewpoint to a platform impacting the global development agenda.

South Africa's Trade Expansion

China is South Africa's greatest commercial partner, surpassing the US, UK, Germany, and Japan, with trade rising from $1 billion in 1998 to $2 billion in 2002 and $20 billion in 2013. Human resource development, infrastructure, ICT, energy, and natural resources are bilateral investment and trade priorities. Trade with Brazil and India has grown reciprocally, but less than with China. South Africa's BRICS participation should boost commerce. With increasing agricultural and service trade linkages with Brazil and India, South Africa is likely to profit from mining exports to Russia and innovative technological skills and financial inflows from China (Kim & Tukić, 2015).

Strategic Recommendations for Zambia

Countries compete to position themselves strategically in a complicated geopolitical terrain (Ngubo, 2016). Zambia returns to worldwide prominence after years of hesitation. Zambians might rejoin WEC, WTO, and other international forums when economic and trade measures are implemented or resurrected. Zambia should create a foreign trade strategy that communicates aims and objectives to the global economy and other nations (Kim & Tukić, 2015). This involves guiding a diplomatic and consular apparatus that promotes foreign commerce and implements trade policy in international organizations.

Technical knowledge and economic impact are weak in Zambia. Building a team of experts on new developments, highlighting countries of greatest interest, paying donors with cooperation funds to gather information on ambiguous countries, and responding to national and regional inquiries rather than speaking alone can help address information asymmetry in challenging countries. Domestic manufacturers will help to adapt, and dump imports will be stopped. Influencing relevant international laws will also be made. Recruits will learn about Zambia's trade policies, including the formulation of duty-free import lists, tariff and agreement compliance, and organizational capability (Rapanyane & Shai, 2019).

Zambia wants to improve relations with neighboring and regional nations by expanding trade incentive agreements, addressing price competition abuses, developing a monitoring framework, and helping local companies harmed by such changes. Popular support for such links would encourage relevant professionals to influence decision-makers. BMOs might also help farmers find new ways to compete with multinationals.

Policy Framework Development

The research also recommended that Zambia establish technical committees in relevant ministries to develop implementation strategies and policy frameworks for Parliament. Also, consider revisions to the Political Parties' Acts and constitution. The government also considering creating a semi-autonomous commission with an independent budget to establish facilities and operate the Zambia chapter of the New Development Bank. Countries have had success with such committees. Laws and rules may be droughted to let the new commission manage Zambia's investment fund (Bond, 2017).

Before BRICS, traditional financial vehicles existed globally. Western nations greatly influence these vehicles, although they are not completely controlled by them. Since entering White Western finance, cars have been developed, although they are stateless. Other than that, the East has not projected or undertaken considerable financial power. BRICS is East-focused. Zambia will also gain from BRICS institutions globally (Boulle and Chella, 2014).

Given BRICS member states limited financial experience and the drastically different and more complicated global landscape in which BRICS would exist, establishing a new regional bank without sufficient experience and pre-existing institutions would be risky. Further complicating things, the World Bank dominates Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and South America, which Zambia considers vital to its economic future. They are co-evolving and building response mechanisms. The BRICS, particularly China, must study that history to avoid World Bank blunders (Bond, 2017).

Strengthening Institutional Capacities

Zambia's participation in BRICS enables technology and capacity-building cooperation to improve its green and carbon-neutral state, despite environmental and systemic human security issues. Zambia lacks the delivery capability and institutional structure to implement green laws, leading to unimplemented policy draughting. Zambia's BRICS membership creates chances for green technology education, knowledge transfer, and technology transfer, promoting a green state (Kim & Tukić, 2015). BRICS institutions can help Zambia become carbon-neutral and green. Zambia may collaborate with partners on proficiency and modernization control via BRICS knowledge networks. Zambia may get climate change adaptation aid. Other Zambian parties may acquire data and witness confirmation on informative tools to enhance trustworthy and defect-free green protection. BRICS can use its expertise to help Zambia attend and coordinate regional heritage protection and governance events. These technologies may improve commission monitoring and finance. BRICS investment will boost Zambia's market and financial capacity for sustainable development (Rapanyane & Shai, 2019).

Conclusion

Zambia's BRICS Associate Membership is a major foreign policy milestone. The clearance supports local claims that the new government would adopt an economically realistic and non-interventionist global stance. Joining BRICS will boost the economy. Zambia will gain larger markets, increased investment, advanced technology, wisdom in cooperation and coordination, political engagement and conflict resolution experience, and membership in an international institution likely to have a permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

Zambia has a lengthy BRICS relationship. In 2018, Zambia hosted the annual BRICS Dialogue on “Building Responsive, Inclusive, and Collective Solutions” for emerging markets and developing countries. Zambia sought recognition as a serious multilateral participant via the Dialogue. This background led BRICS to accept Zambia as an Associate Member. Zambia's role as a vital partner in this global platform increases with this decision.

Zambia joining BRICS will boost investment. China is BRICS' biggest member and is said to be its 'engine'. Zambia may get money from China, Brazil, India, and Russia via BRICS. China's investment and lending were considered as a solution to Zambia's debt issue by the World Bank and IMF. BRICS partners have pledged USD50 billion to infrastructure projects in member nations via the New Development Bank. This grant might improve Zambia's health, communication, transport, and water infrastructure.

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