International Relations · GS - II

“BRICS acts as a powerful counterweight in global governance, actively amplifying the voice and influence of the Global South.” Explain the role of BRICS in projecting itself as an alternative to other groupings.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Global South, multipolarity, global governance reform, UN Security Council, IMF, World Bank, New Development Bank, local currencies, economic cooperation, expanded membership, alternative institutions, limitations

Model Answer

BRICS has increasingly projected itself as a platform for greater representation of the Global South in international governance. Its expansion has broadened its geographical and economic reach, while its agenda emphasises reform of institutions such as the UN, IMF, World Bank and WTO.

Its role as an alternative platform is visible through the New Development Bank, which provides development financing outside traditional financial institutions. BRICS also promotes cooperation in trade, technology, energy, health and sustainable development, while discussions on local-currency settlements seek to reduce excessive dependence on existing financial arrangements.

The grouping's expansion and partner-country mechanism provide additional space for developing countries to participate in discussions on global economic governance. Brazil's 2025 BRICS agenda explicitly emphasised stronger Global South cooperation and more inclusive global governance.

However, differences in economic interests, political systems and foreign-policy priorities among members can constrain collective action. BRICS is also an informal coordination forum without a constitutive treaty, permanent secretariat or common budget.

Thus, BRICS represents an important complementary platform for Global South cooperation and institutional reform, though its effectiveness as an alternative depends on internal cohesion and concrete policy outcomes.

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