

Cuba seeks Brics partnership



The Brics summit in South Africa in 2018 (source: [GovernmentZA/Flickr/CC BY-ND 2.0](#))

Socialist Cuba has officially expressed interest in a partnership with the Brics group, joining a number of states seeking to forge closer ties with the emerging economic bloc.

Carlos Miguel Pereira, director of bilateral relations at the Cuban foreign ministry (Minrex), made the formal request to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who currently holds the group's presidency. The ministry announced this on the [X messaging service](#).

The request comes two weeks before the next Brics summit, which will take place from October 22 to 24 in the Russian city of Kazan and to which Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel has been invited as a guest again. In the letter, Cuba asks to be accepted as a "partner country". Pereira emphasized the importance of the Brics group of states as an "important player in global geopolitics" and "hope for the countries of the South".

The status of a partner country does not yet mean full membership, but serves as a kind of preliminary stage to involve countries of the Global South in particular and prepare them for eventual full membership.

Cuba's application is part of a broader movement in which other states such as Syria and Azerbaijan are also seeking membership. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recently applied for membership, which would make his country the first NATO member.

Membership of the Brics group is by invitation only. Argentina received such an invitation at the beginning of the year, but the newly elected President Javier Milei rejected it.

Originally founded as a Bric without South Africa, the Brics group has comprised the five major economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa since 2010. Since its founding, it has developed into a geopolitical and economic counterweight to the Western G7 bloc. This year, the group was expanded to include Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Iran to form Brics+.

One topic at the upcoming summit in Kazan is the introduction of an alternative payment system to bypass the US dollar in transactions between member states. Cuba, which is affected by harsh US financial sanctions, is likely to follow the development of this with great interest. ([Cubaheute](#))