



## Analysis of President Prabowo's Foreign Policy : Indonesia's Existential Diplomacy in Joining of BRICS and OECD

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**Abstract.** Indonesia's decision to join BRICS as a full member on January 6, 2025, marks a significant shift in the direction of national foreign policy. Under the leadership of President Prabowo Subianto, this move is seen as a form of existential diplomacy aimed at asserting Indonesia's position in an increasingly multipolar global order. This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study method to examine the motives, processes, and impacts of this policy. It utilizes psychological theories of foreign policy and institutional liberalism to explain the case study. The analysis reveals that while BRICS membership opens strategic opportunities, the decision was not entirely based on domestic needs and leaves questions regarding the consistency of Indonesia's foreign policy direction. This study recommends further evaluation of symbolic foreign policies to ensure they align with long-term national interests.

**Keywords:** BRICS, Existential Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, OECD, Prabowo Subianto

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is strengthening its global position through a more proactive foreign policy. Indonesia's economic strength is one of the main drivers of international politics, enabling the country to play an important role in various multilateral forums. One of the important decisions taken by Indonesia within the framework of this foreign policy was to join BRICS. BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, originally known as BRIC. In 2009, these countries officially held their first meeting as the BRIC forum, aimed at discussing global economic issues relevant to developing nations, including reforms in the international financial system. In 2010, South Africa, as the largest economy in Africa, joined the group, leading to a name change to BRICS to reflect the greater diversity within the alliance. The inclusion of South Africa signaled the expansion of the forum to include countries from various regions of the world that share similar challenges and objectives in addressing inequality within the global economic system (Anas et al., 2022; Keohane, 2020).

BRICS is an international organization for cooperation among developing countries that have growing economic and political influence, with the aim of supporting the formation of a more inclusive and fair global economic system (Der Derian, J., & Wendt, 2020). This decision reflects Indonesia's orientation to further adapt to a multipolar world order, in which developing countries increasingly dominate global policy-making (Keohane, 2020). Over time, BRICS has continued to expand with the addition of countries such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia. These countries

joined BRICS with the aim of strengthening South-South cooperation, reducing dependence on Western financial institutions, and promoting reform of the global financial system to make it more inclusive and fair for developing countries (Malik et al., 2024; Vyas-Doorgapersad, 2022).

The announcement that Indonesia officially joined BRICS on January 6, 2025, marks a new chapter in Indonesian diplomacy (Kompas, 2025). Indonesia's membership in BRICS not only opens up opportunities to expand access to global markets and investment, but also provides an opportunity to participate in the formulation of more balanced international economic policies. BRICS, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, not only serves as a major economic power but also focuses on strengthening cooperation among developing nations to reduce dependence on the Western financial system that has long dominated the global economy (The Jakarta Post, 2025). In this context, Indonesia views BRICS as a strategic platform that suits its needs to expand its political and economic influence within an increasingly diverse global framework (CNN Indonesia, 2025).

Indonesia, which previously focused more on membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), has now shifted to BRICS, an alliance more in line with the interests of developing countries. This shift in Indonesia's foreign policy demonstrates an adjustment to the increasingly multipolar global dynamics, although this decision raises questions about its consistency and impact on Indonesia's domestic policy (Saha, Premesha & Fellow, 2025; Syamsudin, 2025). This decision has also sparked discussion about whether BRICS membership could give Indonesia greater diplomatic power in facing increasingly complex global geopolitical and economic challenges (Setiawan, 2025).

## **2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Psychological Concepts in Foreign Policy**

The psychological approach in foreign policy analysis is one that emphasizes the importance of individual factors in the process of international political decision-making. This approach is based on the assumption that state actors, especially political leaders, do not act solely based on rational institutional calculations, but are also influenced by their personal backgrounds, life experiences, emotions, and perceptions of the world (Levy, 2023). In this context, psychology becomes an important element that shapes leaders' perspectives and preferences on various global issues. As explained by Levy, psychology

plays a constitutive and causal role in foreign decision-making and therefore cannot be ignored in policy analysis. This approach also acknowledges that institutional structures and international systems are important, but insufficient to explain variations in decisions among leaders in similar situations. The psychological approach seeks to delve deeper into the micro aspects of the decision-making process, including beliefs, cognitive biases, and individual motivations (Rapport, 2017).

The selection of psychological concepts in foreign policy offers deeper analytical advantages over idiosyncratic and rational choice theories because it is able to explain the complexity of leaders' decisions through systematic cognitive, emotional, and perceptual mechanisms. This contrasts with idiosyncratic theories, which tend to be descriptive and emphasize individual uniqueness without a strong theoretical framework. Psychological concepts enable behavior prediction based on belief patterns and responses to risk. Furthermore, rational choice tends to assume that actors act rationally based on objective calculations, while psychological approaches show that perceptions of gains and losses are often influenced by cognitive biases, framing, and past experiences, so decisions are not always linear or optimal. One of the main strengths of the psychological approach is its ability to explain the variability of decisions among leaders, even in the same institutional and structural contexts. This approach allows for a more in-depth analysis of the personal factors that influence policy, such as values, emotions, and life experiences. Furthermore, this approach is relevant in situations of crisis and uncertainty, where intuition and perception often dominate over rational calculation (Levy, 2023). The psychological approach also opens up opportunities for interdisciplinary studies between psychology, politics, and history, enriching our understanding of the dynamics of international relations.

Key figures in the psychological approach include Robert Jervis, Alexander George, Margaret Hermann, and Jack S. Levy. Robert Jervis is known for his theory of perception and misperception in international relations, which shows that misperceptions can lead to unnecessary conflicts (Field, 2020). Margaret Hermann contributed through her research on the personality traits of leaders and their impact on foreign policy (Abdiel, 2020). Jack S. Levy, in his more recent work, integrates various psychological approaches into a more comprehensive decision-making model, including motivation theory, cognitive biases, and group dynamics (Levy, 2023). These figures have shaped a rich and diverse theoretical framework that allows for a more human and contextual analysis of foreign policy.

In addition, a psychological approach was introduced by Kahneman and Tversky and later adapted in international relations studies. This theory states that individuals tend to be

more sensitive to losses than gains, and that decisions are often influenced by how a problem is framed (Levy, 2023). In the context of foreign policy, this means that leaders are more likely to take risks when they feel they are in a position of loss, compared to when they are in a position of gain. In crisis situations, leaders may choose high-risk military actions because they feel they have no better alternatives. This theory also explains why leaders sometimes make decisions that seem irrational, as they are influenced by subjective perceptions of the situation rather than objective calculations. Thus, Prospect Theory provides important insights into how cost-benefit thinking in foreign policy is not always rational or linear.

In an increasingly complex and uncertain world, understanding the psychology of leaders is key to designing wiser and more effective foreign policy. As Levy explains, this approach encompasses various decision-making models, including groupthink, motivated reasoning, and temporal construal, all of which demonstrate how biases and perceptions influence foreign policy choices. The psychological approach is not only important academically but also has significant practical implications for policymakers and international relations analysts.

### **Liberal Institutional Theory**

Liberal institutionalism is a major branch of liberal theory in international relations, emphasizing the importance of international institutions in creating order, cooperation, and peace among states. Unlike realism, which views the international system as anarchic and conflict-ridden, liberal institutionalism argues that even in an anarchic system, states can cooperate rationally through institutions that govern their interactions. These institutions, which include international organizations, global regimes, and norms, not only provide technical solutions but also act as normative actors shaping expectations and reinforcing compliance with common rules (Keohane, 2020). This theory builds on Immanuel Kant's idea of perpetual peace and has been reinforced by post-World War II developments, particularly the creation of the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), which serve as foundational examples of institutional structures facilitating global cooperation (Abdelal, 2020).

Liberal Institutionalism has advantages over regime theory in terms of its scope of application and emphasis on the role of international institutions in the broader international system. While regime theory focuses more on rules and norms in the context of specific issues, such as trade or the environment, liberal institutionalism offers a more general

understanding of how institutions can facilitate cooperation across a range of international issues. The theory is more flexible as it is not limited to one specific area but rather highlights how global institutions as a whole that can help reduce tensions and create stability in many areas. In addition, Liberal Institutionalism recognises the importance of non-state actors, such as international organisations and multinational corporations in shaping global policy, while regime theory focuses more on interstate relations within a specific regulatory context. Liberal institutionalism's more optimistic approach to the ability of international institutions to promote global peace and prosperity, whereas regime theory is often more pragmatic and limited to effectiveness in specific contexts. Liberal institutionalism offers a broader and holistic view of the role of institutions in the international system, which makes it possible to facilitate more effective cooperation at various levels.

Key figures in liberal institutionalism include Robert Keohane, Joseph Nye, and John Ruggie. Keohane, in his influential work *After Hegemony* 1984, argues that international institutions can endure even without a single hegemonic power, as they create incentives and mechanisms that facilitate cooperation. Nye introduced the concept of *complex interdependence*, suggesting that international relations are not just about military power but are deeply shaped by economic, cultural, and institutional interactions (Keohane, Robert & Nye, 2020). Ruggie's concept of *embedded liberalism* explains how international institutions balance economic liberalization with domestic social stability, helping states manage the tensions between free markets and the welfare state (Ruggie, 2021).

Liberal institutionalism posits that states are rational actors pursuing national interests but recognize that cooperation can yield greater collective benefits. International institutions help reduce uncertainty, enhance transparency, and provide mechanisms for dispute resolution (Keohane, 2020). Unlike the pessimistic view of realism, which argues that cooperation only happens under the dominance of great powers, liberal institutionalism contends that even smaller states can benefit from institutionalized global systems. Institutions are not merely reflections of power; they also create order and stability within the international system (Keohane, Robert & Nye, 2020).

As global dynamics become increasingly complex, liberal institutionalism has adapted and expanded. It now accommodates issues such as climate change, cybersecurity, and pandemics, which require broader multilateral cooperation (Keohane, 2020). In this context, liberal institutionalism highlights the need for global governance frameworks that regulate interactions beyond individual states. Despite challenges posed by populism,

protectionism, and growing distrust in global institutions, this theory remains relevant because it offers rule-based solutions for addressing complex global challenges (Abdelal, 2020).

Even amidst challenges from populism, economic nationalism, and unilateralism, liberal institutionalism maintains its relevance. It argues that international institutions can survive and adapt because they create long-term value for their member states. Even when major powers withdraw from international agreements, many other countries remain committed, recognizing the collective benefits of institutional continuity. This resilience suggests that institutions are not merely products of power but the result of shared, internalized interests (Keohane, 2020).

### **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach, which is a method used to explore social phenomena in depth, with the aim of understanding the meaning, patterns, and dynamics that exist in a particular context (Creswell, 2016). In this study, the data used is secondary, obtained through literature studies from various reliable sources, such as official government documents. This research uses a case study method. Case studies allow researchers to conduct in-depth analysis of specific phenomena in their real and relevant contexts (Creswell, 2016). With a case study approach, researchers can obtain a more constructive of the case study (Yin, 2018). The triangulation of psychological and institutional liberal concepts is applied to enhance the validity and reliability of the analysis in this study. This triangulation involves combining various theoretical perspectives, namely psychological foreign policy and institutional liberalism, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon being studied (Creswell, 2016).

This approach allows researchers to examine aspects that cannot be measured quantitatively, such as the motives and socio-political dynamics underlying Indonesia's foreign policy. The document such as President Prabowo's speeches at international forums, and national media reports that provide insights into Indonesia's foreign policy. A case study was used because the focus of this research is on one specific phenomenon, especially Indonesia's decision to join BRICS as part of the foreign policy led by President Prabowo Subianto. The triangulation is useful for avoiding bias in data interpretation and ensuring that the analysis is not based on a single perspective or theory, but rather on a combination of complementary theoretical perspectives

#### **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **History of BRICS and Indonesia's Membership**

BRICS, which stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, was established in 2009 with the aim of creating a forum for cooperation among developing countries with significant economic potential. Initially, the group consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, which aimed to increase the influence of developing countries that had been marginalized in the global financial system dominated by developed countries, such as the United States and the G7 member countries. The group was formed in response to the injustice of the international financial system, which greatly benefited large countries (Amri, 2025). The existence of BRICS aims to fight for reform in the system by promoting policies that are more equitable and based on the principles of justice for developing countries (Patrick & Hogan, 2025).

In 2010, South Africa joined BRICS, expanding the group's representation to become more global, covering developing countries from various parts of the world. Over time, BRICS has evolved into a strategic alliance that focuses not only on economic issues but also on international politics and global governance reform. One of BRICS' major achievements is the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB), which aims to provide an alternative to traditional financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. The NDB offers financing for infrastructure projects in developing countries with more flexible terms and lower interest rates compared to Western financial institutions (BRICS Portal, 2025). With the NDB, BRICS seeks to create a more inclusive global financial system that can reduce the dependence of developing countries on systems controlled by major powers.

With the formation of BRICS, member countries are seeking to redefine their position in an increasingly multipolar global order. Developing countries that were previously marginalized in international decision-making now have a platform to play a larger and more active role in shaping global policies. Indonesia, which joined BRICS in 2025, sees this as an opportunity to strengthen its foreign diplomacy and enhance its position in the global economic arena. Indonesia's membership in BRICS provides more flexible access to development financing through the NDB and offers opportunities to play a more active role in designing more inclusive and fair global economic policies (Nathanael, 2025). Through this participation, Indonesia seeks to contribute to a more balanced reform of the international financial system and support sustainable development (Myajaya, 2025).

Indonesia previously applied for membership in the OECD, which consists of developed countries with high standards of economic governance, fiscal transparency, and democratic institutions (OECD, 2025). To meet these criteria, Indonesia has implemented various domestic policy reforms aimed at improving economic governance, enhancing fiscal transparency, and strengthening democratic institutions (Fitriani & Gunanto, 2024). Membership in the OECD is expected to provide Indonesia with greater access to the markets of developed countries and strengthen trade and investment relations with these countries.

In addition, this membership provides Indonesia with the opportunity to participate more actively in more structured global economic policy-making, particularly in terms of international trade and more progressive and market-based investment policies (OECD, 2025). However, Indonesia's shift in foreign policy focus to BRICS will cause confusion regarding the consistency and direction of Indonesia's foreign policy.

Meanwhile BRICS places greater emphasis on strategic cooperation among developing countries facing similar challenges in addressing global inequality and building economic sovereignty outside the dominance of developed countries (Khandelwal et al., 2024). This shift indicates that Indonesia prefers to strengthen its position within an alliance of developing countries that are increasingly dominating the global economic landscape.

Although BRICS offers significant opportunities to enhance Indonesia's position in the international arena, the decision to join BRICS must be evaluated in the context of Indonesia's ability to balance its relations with developed countries, particularly in the economic and technological aspects. OECD countries, which have been Indonesia's main partners in trade and investment, have more established standards in the economic, technological, and global financial systems (Myajaya, 2025). Indonesia needs to navigate these relationships carefully to avoid losing access to important markets in developed countries while maximizing the potential offered by BRICS in diversifying alliances and enhancing influence on the international stage (Iswardhana, 2020).

### **Domestic Response to Indonesia's Membership in BRICS**

Indonesia's decision to join BRICS has received mixed responses from the domestic community. Most support this decision, seeing it as an opportunity to strengthen Indonesia's position in an increasingly multipolar global economic system and expand economic cooperation with other developing countries (Kenzu & Kurmala, 2025). Those who support BRICS view it as a strategic platform that allows Indonesia to access larger markets, reduce

dependence on developed countries, and enhance Indonesia's bargaining power in international negotiations. Additionally, membership in BRICS opens opportunities for Indonesia to improve domestic infrastructure through funding from the NDB, which focuses on financing infrastructure projects in developing countries with more flexible terms compared to traditional international financial institutions (NBD, 2023).

However, there are also groups that criticize this decision, arguing that Indonesia was too hasty in joining BRICS without adequate public consultation. Critics note that Indonesia's foreign policy often appears poorly planned and more focused on political symbolism than on more pressing domestic needs, such as strengthening the domestic economy and fiscal stability (Hadi et al., 2022). Some observers are concerned that this decision may only benefit a select few with specific political interests, while its impact on Indonesia's domestic economy, particularly sectors that remain dependent on relations with developed countries, remains unclear (Jailani, 2025). The transition from OECD membership to BRICS is seen by some as an ill-planned move, given that many countries in the world prioritize relations with developed countries that have more established and stable economic systems (Nathanael, 2025). It is important for the Indonesian government to be more transparent in explaining the strategic objectives behind this membership and to involve the public in the decision-making process so that they can support and actively participate in the implementation of these policies.

### **Prabowo's Psychological Factors in Indonesia's Decision to Join BRICS**

President Prabowo Subianto's decision to join BRICS cannot be separated from his psychological background and leadership character. As a figure with a strong military and nationalistic background, Prabowo tends to view the international community as a competitive arena that demands existence and influence. Psychological concepts in foreign policy explain that Prabowo's fundamental belief in the importance of independence and national strength influences his preference for alliances such as BRICS. This decision is not merely the result of rational calculation, but a reflection of the perceptions and life experiences that have shaped his view of the global order.

Prabowo seems to view BRICS as a symbol of resistance to Western domination and as a means to strengthen Indonesia's image as a sovereign and influential country. This policy shows that Indonesia's foreign policy under Prabowo is influenced by constitutive psychological factors. Although Indonesia adheres to the principle of free and active

foreign policy, the decision to join BRICS appears to have been rushed and lacked a thorough deliberative process (Iswardhana, 2021).

The value of free and active should not only be interpreted as the freedom to join various blocs, but also as the ability to objectively assess the benefits and risks of every diplomatic move. In this case, the psychological approach shows that framing BRICS as a symbol of developing countries' power can trigger a bias that ignores rational evaluation of national interests. This quick decision risks blurring the direction of Indonesia's foreign policy, especially if it is not accompanied by a clear long-term strategy. It is important that the value of free and active diplomacy be translated more concretely into consistent, measurable policies based on domestic interests and Indonesia's strategic position in the world.

Prabowo seems to be promoting an existence diplomacy approach, which is a strategy to assert Indonesia's presence and influence on the international stage through active participation in various global forums. Psychologically, this approach reflects the need for international recognition and validation, which is often a key motivation in foreign policy decisions. Joining BRICS can be seen as an effort to strengthen Indonesia's image as a country that not only follows the flow but also shapes the global flow. However, existential diplomacy that is not accompanied by strategic calculations can lead to policy fragmentation and diplomatic inconsistency.

In this context, it is important for Indonesia to ensure that every existential step on the global stage has a strong policy foundation and is not merely symbolic. Indonesia is currently a member of the G20 and is in the process of joining the OECD, which is projected to be achieved in 2026. Membership in the G20 shows that Indonesia has been recognized as a middle power with an important role in global governance. Meanwhile, the process towards OECD membership requires structural reforms and a commitment to transparency, economic governance, and democracy. The psychological approach in foreign policy suggests that leaders can be influenced by perceptions of status and international recognition, causing the decision to join BRICS to be a response to the need for quick achievements.

However, this step risks disrupting more substantial and strategic processes such as the OECD, which offers long-term benefits for national development. If Indonesia joins BRICS in the midst of the process towards OECD membership, there is a risk of perceptions of inconsistency from the international community. Developed countries that

are members of the OECD may question Indonesia's commitment to reform and rules-based economic integration.

A psychological approach suggests that framing BRICS as a symbol of resistance to the West could create cognitive dissonance in the perceptions of international partners. This could damage Indonesia's diplomatic credibility and raise doubts about the stability of its foreign policy. In the long term, this inconsistency could hinder Indonesia's access to investment, technology, and strategic cooperation with OECD countries.

Furthermore, there is also a major risk from BRICS membership, especially China's dominance in the direction of the alliance's policies. China has far greater economic and political power than other members, including Indonesia (Iswardhana, 2022). A psychological approach shows that in such asymmetrical situations, leaders of small countries tend to experience psychological pressure to conform, which can lead to compromises on national interests. In addition, BRICS also faces internal challenges in the form of differences in interests among members, regional conflicts, and disharmony in the economic agenda. If Indonesia does not have a clear strategy and strong negotiating skills, the risk of subordination to the interests of large countries such as China is high. The decision to join BRICS needs to be understood critically and not solely based on existential or symbolic impulses.

### **The Dynamics of BRICS and Indonesia's Position**

One of the main concerns within the framework of institutional liberalism is BRICS' efforts to promote de-dollarization, namely reducing dependence on the US dollar in international transactions (Saaida, 2024). From a liberal institutional perspective, dedollarization reflects the aspirations of developing countries to establish a more inclusive global financial system that is responsive to their needs. Dependence on the US dollar is seen as a structural barrier that reduces the flexibility of domestic economic policies, as US exchange rates and monetary policies are often out of sync with local conditions (Butt, 2024). The main objective of dedollarization, in this context, is to strengthen economic autonomy through the establishment of alternative financial institutions that are more equitable and not centered on a single dominant power (Patrick & Hogan, 2025). By creating a more balanced international payment system, BRICS seeks to build new institutions that can reduce power asymmetries in the global system (Saaida, 2024).

A concrete step taken by BRICS in supporting de-dollarization is the use of local currencies in bilateral trade among its members. Within the framework of institutional

liberalism, this is a form of institutional innovation aimed at creating efficiency and stability in international transactions (BRICS Portal, 2025). However, the main challenge in implementing this policy is the dominance of the US dollar as the primary currency in the global financial system, which has been institutionalized over the past decade. A shift toward the use of local currencies requires extensive institutional reforms and intensive coordination among countries. In this regard, institutions such as BRICS must be able to provide mechanisms that support this transition, including clearing systems, oversight, and dispute resolution. Indonesia, as a new member, is expected to play an active role in strengthening these institutions, although structural challenges remain significant (Nathanael, 2025).

BRICS has initiated the development of an alternative payment system aimed at strengthening economic integration among developing countries and reducing the dominance of financial systems controlled by large countries (Ferragamo, 2025). From a liberal institutionalism perspective, this system functions as an institutional platform that enables developing countries to participate more equitably in global trade. It also has the potential to expand access to financing and strengthen regional economic stability. Although Indonesia can benefit from financing flexibility through this system, challenges remain because most of Indonesia's international trade still depends on the US dollar. The success of BRICS depends on the effectiveness of institutions in managing the transition and ensuring that changes do not disrupt domestic economic stability (Jailani, 2025). Within the liberal institutionalism framework, coordination and transparency among members are key to the success of this payment system reform (Patrick & Hogan, 2025).

However, BRICS also faces significant internal challenges, particularly in terms of competition for influence between India and China. In liberal institutionalism theory, the success of multilateral cooperation depends heavily on the ability of institutions to manage conflicts and build consensus. Tensions between these two major powers could hinder the effectiveness of BRICS institutions in formulating collective policies. Differences in views on strategic issues such as trade, energy, and investment highlight the need for institutional mechanisms capable of mediating and aligning member interests (Amri, 2025). Without a strong institutional structure, cooperation within BRICS risks becoming unproductive and fragmented.

India and China, despite their shared interest in advocating for global economic reform, often have different approaches to foreign policy and economic cooperation mechanisms. Within the framework of liberal institutionalism, these differences should be

manageable through institutions that provide deliberative forums and effective conflict resolution mechanisms. However, the absence of clear institutional structures within BRICS makes competition between these two countries potentially hinder strategic decision-making. This tension highlights the importance of strengthening BRICS' internal institutions to maintain the solidarity and effectiveness of cooperation among members (Patrick & Hogan, 2025). Without institutional reform, BRICS risks losing direction and failing to meet the aspirations of developing countries.

Although BRICS strives to be an alternative for developing countries to collaborate outside the influence of developed countries, internal tensions indicate that the success of this alliance depends on strengthening consensus-building and conflict resolution institutions. In liberal institutionalism theory, effective institutions must be able to accommodate differences and provide fair mechanisms for resolving disputes.

Without a structured institutional approach, BRICS will find it difficult to face increasingly complex and dynamic global challenges (Jailani, 2025). As a new member, Indonesia faces challenges in navigating the internal dynamics of BRICS, which is dominated by large countries. Within the framework of liberal institutionalism, small countries can strengthen their position through active institutional diplomacy and participation in the formation of norms and cooperation procedures. Tensions between India and China have the potential to hamper the role of countries such as Indonesia in determining the direction of the alliance's policies (Syamsudin, 2025). Indonesia needs to develop a multilateral diplomatic strategy that is capable of fighting for national interests without getting caught up in conflicts of interest between major countries. In forums such as BRICS, Indonesia's success depends on its ability to contribute to strengthening institutions and promoting more inclusive governance (Jailani, 2025).

Indonesia needs to strengthen its institutional diplomacy with BRICS member countries and encourage the establishment of more transparent and responsive cooperation mechanisms. Liberal institutionalism theory emphasizes the importance of adapting foreign policy to institutional dynamics and global changes. Indonesia must be able to adapt to the internal challenges of BRICS and actively participate in institutional reforms that support the interests of developing countries. The development of flexible and open diplomatic mechanisms will help Indonesia maintain its interests in this multilateral forum (Patrick & Hogan, 2025). Continuous evaluation of Indonesia's role in BRICS and strengthening cooperation with other developing countries are strategic steps to ensure that Indonesia's foreign policy remains relevant and effective in facing global challenges.

Meanwhile, the OECD offers more concrete and strategic opportunities for Indonesia in realizing its vision of becoming a developed country by 2045. Membership in the OECD opens access to high economic policy standards, fiscal transparency, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. Countries with a long-term vision tend to choose a path that demands consistency and reform, even if it does not provide instant results. In this case, the OECD provides a more stable and structured framework than BRICS, which is more symbolic and political in nature. Moreover, Indonesia has territorial disputes with China that could harm long-term national interests (Iswardhana, 2024; Iswardhana & Arisanto, 2022). Focusing on becoming a member of the OECD should be a strategic priority for Indonesia, not only as a diplomatic goal, but as a foundation for sustainable national development.

Moreover, to date, BRICS has not offered any concrete benefits that can be directly felt by Indonesia, whether in the form of investment, technology, or market access. On the contrary, the decision to join BRICS could create uncertainty among investors, who view Indonesia's foreign policy as unstable and unpredictable. Optimism and framing BRICS as a quick fix could obscure the assessment of economic risks. In the world of investment, consistency and predictability of policy are important. If Indonesia is perceived as lacking a clear policy direction, investor confidence could decline, ultimately harming the national economy.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Indonesia's decision to join BRICS reflects President Prabowo's foreign policy, which is oriented towards existential diplomacy. Indonesia's membership in BRICS demonstrates its intention to strengthen its position on the international stage through a more inclusive multilateral forum and challenge Western dominance. However, this decision needs to be evaluated further, given that it is not entirely based on Indonesia's more pressing domestic needs. In this case, existential diplomacy tends to be symbolic and does not necessarily take into account Indonesia's long-term interests in the economic and social fields.

Indonesia's decision to join BRICS under President Prabowo's leadership can be seen as an exercise in existential diplomacy to strengthen Indonesia's position in the international community. Indonesia's efforts affirm the role of developing countries in an increasingly multipolar global order. However, although BRICS provides opportunities for Indonesia to expand its influence, this decision also presents challenges, particularly regarding the potential dominance of China in this alliance, which could lead to Indonesia's dependence

on policies that are more favorable to China. On the other hand, membership in the OECD offers more concrete benefits, such as broader access to advanced markets, improved domestic economic stability, and more structured relations with major economies. Therefore, while diplomacy through BRICS holds symbolic value, Indonesia should carefully consider the more advantageous and sustainable opportunities that can be gained through the OECD, ensuring a more balanced foreign policy aligned with the country's long-term interests.

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