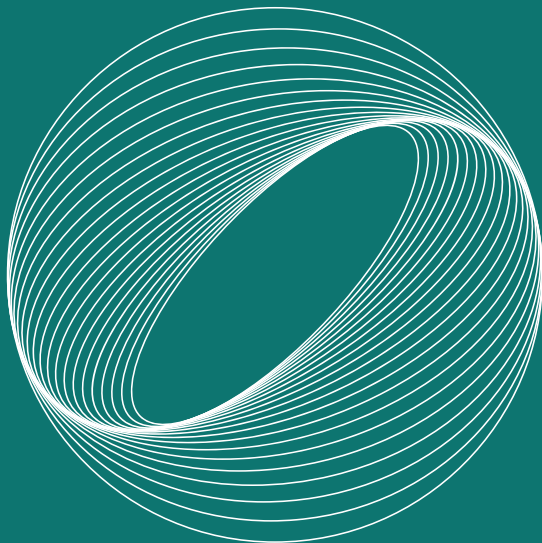




Institute of  
International  
Studies

DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



# ***FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW #71***

**16 MAY – 31 MAY 2024**

## 2024 OLYMPIC DISINFORMATION: CHALLENGES FOR AND FROM AZERBAIJAN

Misleading narratives can spread through major sporting events like the Olympics, with the 2024 Games in Paris posing a particular concern for amplifying disinformation from developing regions. Disinformation within international relations involves intentionally disseminating inaccurate or biased information by external governments or non-state entities to create confusion and deception (Gerrits, 2018).

On November 9, 2023, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) released a statement addressing a rise in disinformation efforts targeting the organization. The statement noted that fake news posts proliferated across Telegram accounts and various social media platforms in multiple languages (IOC, 2023). At the same month, the cyber defense unit of France discovered a disinformation campaign originating from Azerbaijan with the goal of weakening Paris's ability to host the upcoming Olympic Games (Reuters, 2023). Le Monde's reporting on disinformation campaigns linked to Azerbaijan for the 2024 Olympics has escalated tensions, with Azerbaijan accusing France of supporting Armenia and increasing militarization in the South Caucasus region amid strained diplomatic relations (Le Monde, 2023).

Disinformation coming from Azerbaijan about the Paris Olympics could lead to political and economic tensions between the two countries. In the lead up to the 2024 Olympics, tensions had been escalating between France and Azerbaijan. In February 2024, the French Ministry of Defense had visited Armenia, exacerbating tensions with Azerbaijan. By mid-April 2024, the tensions had risen significantly, prompting France to recall its ambassador to Azerbaijan for consultations. The French government described Azerbaijan's recent unilateral actions as damaging to the bilateral relationship between the two countries (France Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2024). The absence of a French ambassador in Baku hinders Azerbaijan's diplomatic goals in France and the EU. The recall signals France's discontent and could harm future cooperation on vital economic and security issues. (Karunya Saka Listianto, HI UPN Veteran Yogyakarta).

### References

- Gerrits, A. W. M. (2018). Disinformation in International Relations: How Important Is It? *Security and Human Rights*, 29(1-4), 3-23.
- IOC statement on fake news campaigns targeting the IOC. (2023, November 9). International Olympic Committee. <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-statement-on-fake-news-campaigns-targeting-the-ioc>
- Le Monde. (2023, November 14). France links 2024 Olympic smear campaign to Azerbaijan. *Le Monde.fr*. [https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2023/11/14/france-links-2024-olympic-smear-campaign-to-azerbaijan\\_6253853\\_4.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2023/11/14/france-links-2024-olympic-smear-campaign-to-azerbaijan_6253853_4.html)
- Ministère de l'Europe et étrangèrèsdes Affaires. (2024, April 16). Azerbaijan - Recall of the Ambassador (16.04.2024). France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. <https://www.diplomatique.gouv.fr/en/country-files/azerbaijan/news/article/azerbaijan-recall-of-the-ambassador-16-04-2024#:~:text=France%20has%20decided%20to%20recall>
- Reuters. (2023, November 14). French report flags Azeri-linked disinformation campaign targeting 2024 Olympics. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/france-unveils-disinformation-campaign-linked-2024-olympics-government-report-2023-11-13/>

## RIPPLE AND RESOLVE: RECTIFYING GLOBAL WATER CONUNDRUMS AT THE 10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

The 10th World Water Forum in Bali, held in May 2024, addressed critical water challenges under the theme "Water for Shared Prosperity," emphasizing collaborative solutions (World Water Forum, 2024). Many major cities in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America struggle with providing clean water, hindered by outdated infrastructure and population growth. Recent research questions the accuracy of UNICEF and WHO's 2015 report on global water access, revealing significant gaps in urban areas of the Global South (Mitlin et al., 2019). Without universal sewer access, on-site fecal sludge management poses health risks and contributes to water pollution (CALS Cornell, 2021). Climate change exacerbates water-related risks like floods and droughts, with sea-level rise intensifying groundwater salinization (WMO, 2021; IPCC, 2008). The forum's outcomes shed light on significant global developments impacting vulnerable communities in the Global South.

The forum's inaugural High-Level Meeting of Heads of State, attended by representatives from 48 countries, stressed global cooperation in water management through solidarity and political leadership (Paramitha, 2024). The Ministerial Declaration proposed initiatives like the Asia-Pacific Center of Excellence on Water and Climate Resilience, integrated water resources management for small islands, and World Lakes Day (IISD, 2024). With 113 water projects totaling \$9.4 billion, the forum showcased its commitment to addressing water scarcity, pollution, and climate change through sustainable practices like lake management and seawater desalination. UNESCO spearheaded discussions on data collection, transboundary cooperation, and gender equality, while the forum advocated for a Global Water Fund to address funding challenges sustainably (CNN Indonesia, 2024). These efforts are vital for bolstering resilience and ensuring the sustainability of water resources, particularly in the Global South, where communities heavily rely on natural resources for their livelihoods, and ecosystem preservation is crucial for sustainable development (Christopher Paller Gerale, Universitas Negeri Malang).

### References

- CALS Cornell, (2021). Water and Waste in Global South Cities. Development Sociology field seminar. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, NY, United States.
- CNN Indonesia, (2024). What were the results of the 10th World Water Forum? Retrieved from <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/teknologi/202405260532041991101996/apa-hasil-dari-world-water-forum-ke-10>
- IISD, (2024). Urgent Call to Save Our Lakes: Promoting a Global Agenda for Sustainable Lake Management in Support of World Lake Day. SDG Knowledge Hub. International Institute for Sustainable Development. Retrieved from <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/urgent-call-to-save-our-lakes-promoting-a-global-agenda-for-sustainable-lake-management-in-support-of-world-lake-day/>
- IPCC, 2008. Climate Change and Water. IPCC Technical Paper VI. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Retrieved from <https://archiv.ipcc.ch/pdf/technical-papers/climate-change-water-en.pdf>
- Mitlin, D., Beard, V.A., Satterthwaite, D., and Du, J. (2019). Unaffordable and Undrinkable: Rethinking Urban Water Access in the Global South. World Resources Institute.
- Paramitha, D. (2024). For the First Time in History! The 10th World Water Forum Brings 3 New Outcomes. Sena's News. Retrieved from [https://senas.co/2024/04/18/behind-the-story-of-indonesia-a-struggle-for-independence-artwork/utm\\_campaign=read-infobhokutm\\_medium=infobhokutm\\_source=intermal](https://senas.co/2024/04/18/behind-the-story-of-indonesia-a-struggle-for-independence-artwork/utm_campaign=read-infobhokutm_medium=infobhokutm_source=intermal)
- WMO, (2021). Wake up to the looming water crisis, report warns. World Meteorological Organization. Retrieved from <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/wake-looming-water-crisis-report-warns>
- World Water Forum, (2024). Compendium of Concrete Deliverables and Actions Ministerial Declaration 10th World Water Forum. Bali, 21 May 2024. Retrieved from <https://worldwaterforum.org/outcomes>

# SHIFTING TIDES: SPOTLIGHTING BRICS EXPANSION TO RESHAPE GLOBAL DYNAMICS IN 2024

The American-led world order will be rechallengeed as a non-Western nations' bloc becomes more prominent in 2024. The BRICS, comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, welcomed five new members—Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates in January 2024 (The Economist, 2023). The expansion of BRICS can be primarily attributed to three factors: 1) The intense East-West confrontation, 2) The deepening of “BRICS+” cooperation, and 3) The demands from pivotal “node” countries (Peng, 2022). Furthermore, the dominance of the United States (US) in global currency markets has significant implications, particularly for energy importers in emerging economies such as the Global South. The strong dollar leads to higher import costs and undermines local currencies which will increase financial stability risk in these countries. Therefore, de-dollarization would shift the balance of power among nation-states, and to some extent could reshape the global economy and markets (Patterson, 2023).

Moreover, recent perspectives have emerged regarding the countries joining this cooperation, highlighting that some have particularly strained relations with the West and its financial system (Ismail, 2023). On the one hand, this expansion challenges the American-led world order as the BRICS aim to leverage the American-dominated financial system for their benefit. For example, they can avoid reproducing asymmetrical relations between the West and Global South countries (Matamis, 2023). On the other hand, there are concerns about the sustainability of their power, which hinges on their ability to collaborate effectively. The fact that their share of GDP is around 20% larger than the G7—a group of rich democracies allied to America—cannot be viewed as the central strength, given their divergent economic priorities (Granville, 2023).

The emergence of BRICS highlights significant developments in contemporary global development and economy. The BRICS have established alternatives to institutions like the World Bank and implemented currency swap lines, allowing the exchange of various currencies, thus diminishing the influence of the IMF. Consequently, this development suggests a shifting global landscape where the US influence is declining while the Global South power appears to be gaining prominence. Nevertheless, as many experts had been concerned, the potential shifts haven't substantially undermined the dollar's supremacy, especially as the US has a long-standing global network of alliances and partnerships (J.P. Morgan, 2023). Therefore, the objectives of BRICS are still formidable, although not impossible. (Valenidha Sulafi, HI UGM 2021).

## References

- Boag, S. (2022). BRICS reserve currency: An attempt to reduce the dollar's dominance? *Orientalism.org*. <https://www.orientalism.org/experts-speak/brics-reserve-currency>
- Bonner, B. (2023, September 12). Building a bigger BRICS. *GS Reports*. <https://www.gstreportsonline.com/brics-expands-club/>
- Gasendi, A. (2023, October 13). How Real is the BRICS Challenge to Reshape the World? *Insistick*. <https://insistickmedia.com/how-real-is-the-brics-challenge-to-reshape-the-world/>
- Granville, S. (2023, August 26). Brics summit: Is a new bloc emerging to rival US leadership? *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-66689633>
- Ismael, S. (2023, August 24). Can BRICS dent the US dollar? It'll be an uphill climb, experts say. *Aljazeera.com*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/8/24/can-brics-dent-the-us-dollar-itll-be-an-uphill-climb-experts-say>
- J.P. Morgan. (2023, August 31). *De-dollarization: the End of Dollar dominance?* J.P. Morgan. <https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/global-research/currencies/de-dollarization>
- Matamis, J. (2023, November 9). *The Future of BRICS: Between Objectives and Challenges*. *Stimson Center*. <https://www.stimson.org/2023/the-future-of-brics-between-objectives-and-challenges/>
- Patterson, B. (2023, October 16). The dollar has joined the commodity currency club. *Financial Times*. <https://www.ft.com/content/073162c9-1b73-4366-8c30-9d0ca7e76b5>
- Peng, N. (2022, July 13). *Great Power Conflict Fuels BRICS Expansion Push*. *TheDiplomat.com*. <https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/great-power-conflict-fuels-brics-expansion-push/>
- The BRICS bloc is riven with tensions. (2023, August 17). *The Economist*. <https://www.economist.com/international/2023/08/17/the-brics-are-getting-together-in-south-africa>
- The Economist. (2023, December 20). *The World Ahead 2024: five stories to watch out for*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBMYVFPpZ1E&list=PL6>

# ***SUBMIT YOUR WRITING!***

***Author's guideline:***

*[tinyurl.com/11SOpenSubmission](https://tinyurl.com/11SOpenSubmission)*

***Enquiry and assistance:***

*[publication.iis@ugm.ac.id](mailto:publication.iis@ugm.ac.id) | 0813 8153 7878 (Dila)*

UNIVERSITAS GAD