

COMMENTARY

UN and BRICS+ in countering wars and conflicts to eliminate the energy crisis

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Abstract: The 2022 energy crisis has been a major shock to the entire world. The world entered 2022 with expected (oil) or actual (coal) shortages. This was the beginning of the crisis. The environmental agenda gave way to increasing the security of energy supply. Both in terms of ensuring a smooth energy transition and being prepared for extreme scenarios. Today, the looming energy crisis seriously threatens the maintenance of normal society, including fuel for transport and logistics, electricity for lighting and work, and gas for our kitchens. The world is now facing a very serious energy crisis – a period of energy shortages and rising prices. This energy crisis is caused by a number of factors, including the disappearance of non-renewable energy sources such as oil. However, the most pressing factor is war. Energy shortages will increase costs for individuals, as many will not have enough energy to meet their basic needs. This will force people and governments of the UN and BRICS+ to look for solutions to save energy. The author of the article believes that the appropriate and effective solution to save energy is to counteract wars and conflicts and move to peaceful life.

Keywords: energy crisis, counteraction to wars, energy saving, peacekeeping

1 Introduction to the problem

A lot of global energy is spent on wars. World War II led to energy costs that already accounted for 40% of the total energy consumption. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the combined military budgets of countries in 2021 exceeded \$2.1 trillion. The highest expenditures were by the United States, China, India, Great Britain and Russia, which accounted for 62% of the world’s spending on weapons. The US, the leader in the military race, invested \$801 billion. China came in second with a budget of \$293 billion, India came in third with \$76.6 billion, and Great Britain came in fourth with \$68.4 billion. Russia dug in at fifth place with a result of \$65.9 billion. According to Uppsala University, there were 54 military conflicts in the world in 2021. They involved 33 countries.

Military spending by countries around the world in 2022 was about \$2 trillion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Global military spending in 2023 was \$2.443 trillion, up 6.8% from 2022. Total military spending in 2023 was 2.3% of global GDP. The top five spenders in this area were the United States, China, Russia, India, and Saudi Arabia, which together accounted for 61% of global military spending. The United States accounts for 40% of global military spending. These costs are related to conflicts, maintaining peacekeeping forces, defense spending, research and development, and military infrastructure. States prefer military force to resolve geopolitical issues. Conflicts have economic costs that have a negative impact on the economies of countries. The use of total global energy for the maintenance and conduct of wars constitutes at least 50% of the energy required for the peaceful life of mankind.

The call and orientation of the multipolar international community on the BRICS+ platform to peaceful life and reduction of energy expenditure on wars, leading to the conclusion of international agreements on the UN platform, will make a great contribution to the process of eliminating the global energy crisis.

BRICS+ and the United Nations can facilitate meaningful dialogue and agreements on reducing energy costs associated with conflict. The movement towards a multipolar world order, which prioritizes peace and energy efficiency, is indeed necessary to solve the global energy crisis.

2 Energy costs of wars

(1) Military budgets of countries serve as an indicator of energy costs. For example, as of 2021, the total US military budget exceeded \$700 billion, and a significant portion of this money goes to fuel and energy resources.

(2) Fuel. Military operations require significant amounts of fuel for vehicles, aircraft, ships, and other equipment. In conflicts such as the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, it has been estimated that military personnel use thousands of liters of fuel per soldier per month. Up to 1.5 million barrels of oil per day can be required to support a single combat operation.

(3) For aviation, fuel consumption can be significant. For example, a single combat aircraft can consume between 2,000 and 4,000 liters of fuel per hour, depending on the type and mission.

(4) Transporting troops and materials also requires energy, which includes both road and air transport. Research shows that logistics and transportation represent a significant share of military spending. In some cases, logistics can account for up to 60% of the total military budget.

(5) Energy and Technology: Modern warfare requires the use of high technology, which requires electricity. For example, unmanned aerial vehicles and control systems require a constant power supply.

(6) Electricity: Modern military operations depend on electronics, including communications, navigation, and control. This requires large amounts of electrical energy.

(7) Production capacity: Providing the army with the necessary resources (ammunition, equipment, food) requires significant energy costs for production.

(8) Waging war requires material costs for human resources.

Wars require significant amounts of energy and resources. The energy expended in waging a war can vary depending on many factors, including the scale of the conflict, the technology used, the types of weapons, the duration of the war, and many other aspects. Wars also have a significant impact on the environment, including pollution due to the use of fuel.

3 Peacekeeping and energy saving

Peacekeeping and energy conservation are interrelated in the context of sustainable development and harmonious coexistence.

(1) Peacekeeping includes efforts to prevent conflicts, establish and maintain peace, and resolve disputes peacefully. This can be achieved through diplomacy, dialogue, education, and various initiatives aimed at strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation.

(2) In the context of globalization and infrastructural changes, peacekeeping becomes especially important. Conflicts can destroy not only social structures, but also ecological systems, which makes peacekeeping efforts necessary for sustainable development.

(3) Energy conservation is practices and measures aimed at efficient energy consumption for human life. This may include the use of energy-efficient technologies, process optimization, and peaceful life.

(4) Energy conservation is critical for sustainable development. In the context of a growing population and resource consumption, energy conservation is becoming an important element of a sustainable development strategy.

(5) Energy conservation not only helps reduce energy costs, but can also create new jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

(6) Peacekeeping and energy conservation are interrelated in the context of sustainable development. Peaceful and stable societies can better manage their resources and implement energy conservation initiatives.

(7) Education on sustainable development and energy conservation can contribute to peacekeeping efforts. Awareness of the importance of environmental protection and the rational use of resources can strengthen social ties and promote peace.

(8) Global challenges related to energy resources can threaten peace. Effective management of energy resources and energy conservation practices can contribute to sustainable peace.

Thus, the integration of approaches to peacekeeping and energy conservation can contribute to the creation of a safer, more just and sustainable world, as well as the formation of peaceful life of humanity without wars [1–8]. To achieve this goal, several key aspects and approaches can be considered:

(1) Education and awareness. Education plays a central role in building a peaceful society. Teaching children and adults tolerance, critical thinking, and cross-cultural understanding helps develop respect and cooperation.

(2) Dialogue and interaction. Establishing open channels of communication between different peoples and cultures promotes mutual understanding. Dialogue can help resolve conflicts before they escalate into violence.

(3) Economic cooperation. Developing economic ties between countries can reduce the likelihood of conflict. When nations depend on each other for trade and investment, it creates an incentive to maintain peace.

(4) Justice and human rights. Protecting human rights and ensuring social justice are important conditions for preventing conflict. When people feel protected and respected, they are less likely to resort to violence.

(5) Peacekeeping initiatives: Supporting peacekeeping missions and organizations that work to resolve conflicts peacefully can help stabilize tense regions.

(6) Cultural exchange. Promoting cultural exchange, joint projects and initiatives helps people to understand each other better and to develop respect for differences. A spiritual worldview that guides the life of an individual and society creates an incentive to maintain peace.

(7) Leadership and responsibility. Leaders of countries and communities must demonstrate responsibility and a desire for peace. They can inspire others to follow the path of cooperation and understanding.

(8) Technological innovation. The use of modern technologies to disseminate information, education and solve social problems can contribute to the creation of a more peaceful society.

(9) Civil society. Active positive participation of citizens in public life and politics can contribute to more peaceful coexistence. Non-governmental organizations and initiatives can play an important role in promoting peace and justice.

(10) Long-term planning. It is necessary to develop strategies and plans aimed at preventing conflicts and creating sustainable peace. This includes both local and international efforts.

(11) International organizations. Support and active participation in international organizations such as the UN, BRICS+ and others that work to maintain peace and security and resolve conflicts peacefully.

All these aspects require joint efforts at the level of individuals, communities, states and international organizations. Creating a world without wars is possible if everyone is ready to take steps towards understanding, cooperation and respect for each other.

A peaceful worldview of human existence is based on ideas and principles that emphasize the importance of harmony, cooperation and respect between people and the environment. Key aspects of a peaceful worldview:

(1) Coexistence and Mutual Aid: People can and should coexist in a supportive manner. This includes mutual assistance, cooperation and the understanding that the well-being of each person is linked to the well-being of all.

(2) Respect for Diversity: Acceptance of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity is the basis of peaceful coexistence. This includes openness to dialogue and the desire to understand different points of view.

(3) Responsibility for the Planet: Caring for our planet and the sustainable use of resources are important aspects of a peaceful worldview. This includes environmental responsibility and the desire to preserve nature for future generations.

(4) Peaceful Conflict Resolution: An important aspect is the search for peaceful solutions to conflicts. This may include dialogue, compromise, mediation and other non-violent methods of resolving differences.

(5) Education and Enlightenment: Education plays a key role in shaping a peaceful worldview. It helps people develop the critical thinking, empathy, and communication skills needed to interact effectively with others.

(6) Justice and Equality. A peaceful worldview involves striving for social justice, eliminating inequalities, and protecting human rights. This includes combating discrimination and violence.

(7) Spiritual Foundations. Many traditions, whether religious or secular, emphasize the importance of love, compassion, and kindness. These values can serve as a foundation for peaceful coexistence.

(8) Global Responsibility. In a globalized world, understanding that one country's problems can affect the entire world encourages cooperation and joint action to address global issues such as poverty and conflict.

In general, a peaceful worldview of human existence emphasizes that human society can and should strive for peace, understanding, and cooperation, creating a more just and sustainable world.

4 The role of the UN and BRICS+ in maintaining peace and providing energy

4.1 UN peacekeeping and BRICS+

BRICS+ (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and other states) and the UN (United Nations) play an important role in maintaining peace and stability in the global arena. Both of these associations strive to strengthen cooperation between states and resolve conflicts peacefully.

(1) BRICS+ countries actively discuss issues of sustainable development, economic growth and social justice. They advocate for a multipolar world and fair international relations.

(2) BRICS+ members work to create mutually beneficial economic ties, which can help mitigate social and economic conflicts.

(3) BRICS+ countries also discuss security and counter-terrorism issues, proposing joint initiatives to prevent conflicts.

(4) The UN plays a central role in maintaining international peace and security through peacekeeping operations, conflict resolution and diplomatic mediation.

(5) The UN Sustainable Development Goals aim to improve the quality of life of people, which in turn helps reduce conflicts and tensions.

(6) The UN works to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms, which is important for preventing conflicts based on discrimination and inequality.

(7) Cooperation between BRICS+ and the UN can lead to more effective solutions to global problems. BRICS+ can support the UN initiatives in the field of peacekeeping and development. BRICS+ countries can share experiences in conflict management and maintaining domestic stability. BRICS+ and the UN can work together with traditional spiritual faiths to realize a world without wars and conflicts, focusing on the principles of dialogue, cooperation and respect for international law.

4.2 Spiritual aspects of orthodox peacemaking

The Creator has defined the purpose of life for each person: to strive for perfection as He is perfect. That is, to strive to live in love with everyone, not to harm anyone. The New Testament describes the spiritual laws of normal life and gives examples in various life situations and circumstances. The lives of the saints are examples of normal life.

Each person is constantly surrounded by people and interacts with some. In a spiritually bright, pure environment, a person gains experience of normal life. Newborns begin life in a family. The formation of spiritually pure families is one of the main tasks of the Orthodox Church and the state. Spiritual relationships in the family are helped by the advice of the priests of the church. The Orthodox worldview is formed by spiritual mentors in educational institutions. An Orthodox person leads and improves a normal life with the participation of God, asking for a blessing when they begin work, carefully monitoring the state of the spirit, soul and conscience, which is God's response to the request.

Priests constantly offer prayers to God for help in building a peaceful life. The influence of dark spiritual forces on a sinful person is weakened by the embodiment of the Lord's instructions in the necessary needs of his Orthodox worldview and peaceful relations and actions in conflict situations and circumstances [8].

4.3 Energy cooperation in BRICS+ and the UN

BRICS+ is an important platform for discussing various issues, including energy and its use. The concept of "BRICS+" implies expanding cooperation with other countries and organizations, which may include initiatives for the peaceful use of energy.

(1) Energy security. BRICS+ countries can work to create sustainable energy systems that ensure access to resources and minimize dependence on external factors.

(2) Innovation and technology. Joint research and development in new technologies such as solar, wind, hydropower, nuclear power and hydrogen energy can form the basis for a sustainable energy future.

(3) Nuclear energy cooperation. Discussions on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and joint projects in this area can be an important part of the agenda.

(4) Exchange of experience and knowledge. Countries can share best practices and experiences in energy policy and sustainable development.

BRICS+ can play a key role in shaping a global energy strategy aimed at the peaceful and sustainable use of energy resources. The United Nations (UN) actively advocates for the peaceful use of energy and against wars and conflicts, emphasizing the importance of sustainable development.

(1) SDG 7 is about the availability, reliability, sustainability and modernity of energy services. One of the key objectives is to ensure access to clean and affordable energy for all.

(2) Peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The UN supports international agreements, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which aim to ensure the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and prevent its use for weapons.

(3) Promoting peace and security. The UN actively works to prevent conflicts and resolve disputes peacefully. Energy security can be an important factor in preventing resource-related conflicts.

(4) The UN supports initiatives to transition to renewable energy sources and efficient use of resources.

(5) The UN promotes international cooperation on energy and sustainable development, providing a platform for dialogue between states, the private sector and civil society. The UN emphasizes that access to energy is an important human right.

BRICS+ and the UN thus play a key role in promoting peaceful energy use and conflict prevention, linking these issues to broader sustainable development and human rights goals.

4.4 UN headquarters in the emerging new world order

The headquarters of the United Nations is currently located in New York, USA. The desire of the United States to subjugate peoples through wars and conflicts catastrophically leads humanity to the build-up of weapons and, as a result, to a global energy crisis of peaceful life.

In connection with the emerging new world order, the question arises as to which country is more appropriate to locate the headquarters of the United Nations, becomes a subject of discussion and depends on various factors:

(1) Political Neutrality: The country must be politically neutral to ensure impartiality in international affairs.

(2) Accessibility: It is important that the headquarters be accessible to representatives of all member countries, including convenient transportation links and infrastructure.

(3) Security: The safety of staff and delegates is a key factor in choosing a location.

(4) Economic Stability: The country must have a stable economy to ensure the support and development of the headquarters.

(5) Support from the International Community: The location must be accepted and supported by the international community.

Ultimately, the decision on where to locate the UN headquarters and what format the UN should operate in depends on the agreement of all member states and various political, economic and cultural factors.

5 Conclusion

In 2012–2014, a study was conducted on the problems of economic, innovative and technological cooperation of the BRICS+ countries in the energy sector. Energy cooperation will develop within the framework of bilateral relations between the countries. The beginning of the transformation of the unipolar world order into a multipolar world has led to significant changes in the entire system of international relations of the entire system of international relations. The most important documents guiding the development of energy cooperation within BRICS and defining its key goals and objectives are the Declarations of the BRICS summits and the Communique of the meetings of the BRICS Ministers of Energy [9–14]. The achievements of BRICS+ in solving the energy crisis are significant:

(1) Implementing activities to ensure energy security and stability in global energy markets;

(2) Promoting balanced development and use of non-renewable and renewable energy sources, including natural gas, including liquefied gas, increasing the efficiency and stability of energy markets, and developing the corresponding sustainable infrastructure;

(3) Stimulating cooperation in the field of renewable energy sources within BRICS, promoting wider use of renewable energy sources in the energy, transport, “thermal” and industrial sectors;

(4) Holding events aimed at building the potential of BRICS countries in this area;

(5) Promoting increased energy efficiency and reduction of pollutant emissions in the trans-

port sector by stimulating wider use of gas, biogas, biofuels, the introduction of electric vehicles and other advanced transport technologies;

(6) Developing cooperation in the development and implementation of advanced clean energy technologies;

(7) Promoting interaction in the field of minerals, including their implementation in the strategy of energy transition and achieving a low-carbon economy;

(8) Strengthening cooperation in the field of energy conservation, stimulating the use of best practices and energy efficiency systems;

(9) Developing cooperation in exchanging experience and increasing capacity in the development and implementation of renewable energy technologies, including wind, solar and hydroelectric energy, as well as bioenergy;

(10) Exploring the possibility of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy as an important source of environmentally friendly energy that practically does not lead to the emergence of pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

The BRICS energy research platform with national secretariats and the youth energy agency operates on a regular basis. The main objective of the platform is to strengthen the role of the BRICS countries in shaping the global agenda, promote the implementation of the countries' interests in energy and ensure global energy security. In the near future, the Roadmap for Peaceful Energy Cooperation of the BRICS countries is expected to be extended until 2030, and the key goals, objectives and priorities of BRICS+ cooperation in the energy sector will be adjusted. The UN's focus on sustainable development and the cooperation of BRICS+ countries demonstrate that dominant peaceful competition is more economically beneficial than forceful global dominance due to the enormous costs of conflicts and wars. The orientation of countries towards sustainable development and peaceful competition in all spheres of activity will lead humanity away from the energy crisis.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares there is no conflict of interest.

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