

Lukashenko Says Belarus Ready to Join BRICS

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President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko. **Kirill Zykov / brics-russia2024.ru**

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko [said](#) Thursday that his country is ready to become an “active member” of the BRICS group of countries.

“We fully share the BRICS philosophy. Belarus is coming to you with specific ideas and projects,” Lukashenko said at the bloc’s annual summit in the city of Kazan. “We’re ready to become an active member of the union.”

BRICS takes its name from the first letters of the five original members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The group expanded earlier this year to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

While Moscow has increasingly sought to cast the group of countries as a counterbalance to Western power and influence in global affairs, not all BRICS members, such as Brazil and India, share Russia’s hard line.

Belarusian Foreign Minister Maxim Ryzhenkov [said](#) last month that he expected the BRICS summit in Kazan to approve Minsk's membership application.

Earlier this week, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov [said](#) 13 countries have applied to become BRICS partner states.

Laos also [said](#) Thursday that it would seek to join BRICS.

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