

Potential and opportunities for cooperation in the area of non-traditional security threats.

Timofei Bordachev,
Higher School of Economics, Valdai Club

Transnational crime is definitely not a threat that would pose a danger to the existence of a modern democratic state. But it provides a challenge and an opportunity for cooperation in areas where individual states objectively need close cooperation. Moreover, cooperation should initially take into account the restrictions imposed by national sovereignty in such a crucial area as the internal security of citizens.

Currently, there is a significant degradation of traditional international institutions and regimes that arose and formed in the second half of the 20th century. This process is irreversible. It is caused by the need for states to adapt to new challenges. Even 20 years ago situations arose which posed common threats but the response to these threats was still national. This is also objective and reflects the need to first understand the extent of threats and the possibilities of their reflection at the level of the main social organization - the state, and only then - to assess the extent of possible cooperation between states with each other. Only by trying to solve the most important problems themselves, can states assess the need for cooperation.

BRICS has largely achieved the main goals of its creation. The emergence of BRICS was due to the need for a wider representation in world affairs with the absolute dominance of the West and its most important institution - the Big Seven. The BRICS countries have been able to achieve significant progress in formulating the core values and priorities of their vision on the most important international issues. At the same time, BRICS is an organization that represents the majority of the world's population, growing and promising economies, and powers without constructive participation of which, it is impossible to resolve most issues of global and regional development. Now the BRICS is reaching a level where common values regarding the world order can be translated into a collective solution to a number of essential issues.

In these conditions, we can distinguish 2 main aspects of our topic in relation to the cooperation of the BRICS countries. Firstly, this is the role of BRICS as a potentially functional agency for solving certain important problems for its countries and the whole world. Secondly, the possibility of effective cooperation of special institutions of the participating countries within the existing limits of mutual openness. The combination of these aspects will make cooperation within the framework of BRICS both effective and open to the participation of other states. Individual BRICS countries can act as regional or functional leaders in certain areas of multilateral cooperation.

As already noted, universal regimes and institutions are now in crisis. Most clearly this crisis is presented in the activities of the UN and its special agencies. Besides, such regimes as the WTO and other organizations of economic management are also in difficult condition. The reason for this crisis is the need for political governance as a

guarantee of solving the problems faced by these organizations. At the same time, no power or group of powers can provide such control on their own. In this regard, it is advisable to look at the possibilities of network structures whose membership and political values do not imply subordination and building alliances oriented towards one leader. BRICS is an example of such a structure.

BRICS can act as a model of open cooperation. Unlike the European Union and other integration groups, BRICS does not require closeness and exclusivity as a condition for achieving a result. Each BRICS country is free to determine its preferences in world politics. Due to the limitations of its tasks in the field of political coordination, the BRICS group should not strive to reach consensus on all issues for the implementation of individual projects. Therefore, other countries can join BRICS initiatives.

At the same time, BRICS is a platform for a common vision of global development and justice issues. This allows us not to make the decision of individual, albeit important, problems a hostage to the general political goals and objectives of individual participants. Obviously, as soon as the solution to a particular important problem becomes the highest priority for one, the rest immediately find themselves in a less favorable position. The BRICS design avoids this contradiction. Also, this does not create a threat that external participants will not be able to join the cooperation, because this is the exclusive interest of one of the group states. This is precisely the problem faced by regional initiatives of individual BRICS participants. But not the forum itself.

In this regard, if BRICS activates the fight against transnational crime, this group can become an example and leader of a new form of interaction between states on certain important issues. In addition, each of the BRICS countries has its own unique competencies and knowledge in certain aspects of the problem under consideration. Therefore, each country of the group could act as a center of competence in certain areas of cooperation in the fight against transnational crime. It is also necessary to create a BRICS Information Bank in this area and a system for exchanging information between government agencies. The advantage of this sphere is its low degree of politicization. Even in comparison with such an important area as the fight against cross-border terrorism, where the sources and nature of threats differ significantly. As well as political assessments of individual manifestations of this threat.

The second most important issue is the aspect of coordination and the ability of special services to interact effectively without questioning the limitations that sovereignty imposes on them. This issue must be present in the discussion of the prospects for cooperation at the earliest stage. Otherwise, it will still appear, but already as a limiter to existing cooperation. It is necessary to initially determine where the specialized agencies of the countries of the group can and where they cannot achieve the necessary degree of openness and joint action.

Institutional collaboration is important in the long run. In the coming decades, the world is likely to face a low ability of states to take into account the interests of others in solving their national development and security tasks. In this regard, it is important how cooperation in this particular field at the BRICS level will be able to create new

foundations for more modern approaches to solving the complex problems faced states.
Transnational crime is one such problem.