



ADDITIONAL 10% UNITED STATES' TARIFF HIKE FOR THE BRICS NATIONS: TRUMP'S CONFRONTATIONAL TRADE POLICIES VERSUS SHARICAH

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Abstract

Navigating the global economy while avoiding direct confrontation with the United States of America (USA) on her confrontational/unilateral trade policies is the pressing challenge confronting the BRICS nations. The declaration of additional wave of 10 per cent United States' tariff hike by President Donald Trump for the BRICS countries and any country aligning with the BRICS' policies without any exceptions is quite a threat to the economics of the Global North and Global South respectively. This work examines the consequential effects of President Donald Trump's confrontational/unilateral trade policies against the BRICS nations and their partner countries without any exceptions, on the global trade. The paper adopted comparative, historical and library research methods. Also, useful internet sources were used. Findings show that the rise of unilateral tariff measures as in President Donald Trump's confrontational trade policies against the BRICS bloc and their partner countries is indeed a pressing global issue. It recommends that the U.S.A should uphold the founding principles behind the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that legislates economic cooperation among the developing economies "Global South" especially through trade. It concludes that the divine objective of creation of the universe by Allah is for the generality of mankind to principally understand one another in all spheres of life and not for confrontational or retaliatory purposes. As such, institutionalisation of the Islamic principle of cooperative global order - "Qur'an 49:13" in the global trade policies would indeed mark an end to confrontational trade policies and bring about the balanced approach to the global financing for economic prosperity.

Keywords: *Tariff Hike; United States; BRICS Nations; Trump's Confrontational Trade Policies; Shari'ah*

Introduction

Economic cooperation among developing countries -"Global South" especially trades was one of the founding principles behind the establishment of UNCTAD - the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - more than half a century ago. Raul Prebisch in his report to the first session of the Conference in 1964, argued for increased South-South "developing economies" trade, including through preferential, regional and intra-regional trading arrangements among groupings of developing countries. At the time, he called the approach - "a new trade policy for development" (UNCTAD/OSG/2018/1).

Global trade to nations are brewing anew as the United States (U.S) President Donald Trump threatens to impose an additional 10 per cent tariff on imports from countries aligning with BRICS - a fast-expanding economic alliance

that recently welcomed Nigeria as a partner country. The proposed tariffs come amid mounting friction between the U.S and the BRICS bloc, raising concerns about global economic stability and the future of multilateral trade. Trump wrote reinforcing his long standing criticism of BRICS as an economic challenge to Western dominance (Nigerian Tribune, 8th July, 2025:7).

The "Global South" is a term encompassing regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa and Oceania, often characterised by lower standards of living, poverty and limited access to resources compared to the-"Global North" that poses economic threats to the commodity - exporting countries of the Global South, favours the needs of rich nations over those of developing nations and defends the wealthy economies' agenda.

The Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944 made the gold as the basis for the United States dollar and other world currencies were pegged to the U.S. dollar's value. The Bretton Woods system came to an end in the early 1970s when the then President Richard M. Nixon of U.S.A. unilaterally announced that the U.S. would not exchange gold for U.S. currency going forward. While the Bretton Woods system was dissolved in the 1970s, both the International and Monetary Funds (IMF) and World Bank have remained pillars for the exchange of international currencies as the institutions it created (investopedia.com, April 19, 2025). Why are these (IMF and World Bank) Western-oriented global financial institutions are still pegging the world currencies to the U.S. dollar's values? Why did U.S. President, Donald Trump, moved sternly against the proposed BRICS currency in 2024 and threatened 100 per cent tariffs on BRICS countries if they moved ahead with their currency to rival and de-legitimise the U.S. dollar?

As the European Union is fully prepared for retaliatory tariffs or counter measures against the unproductive tariff trade policies of U.S. If Trump remains unrepentant and implements his inhuman tariff threats on the exports from the EU nations at the expiry of August 1, 2025 deadline, the global trade war is looming and would be greatly disadvantageous to the globe at large.

The BRICS Nations:

BRICS brings together eleven major emerging economies of the world representing around 49 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP) and around 26 per cent of global trade. The acronym - BRICS was first used in 2001 by Goldman Sachs in their Global Economics Paper-"*The World Needs Better Economic BRICS*" on the basis of econometric analyses projecting that the four economies would individually and collectively occupy far greater economic space and would be among the world's largest economies in the next fifty (50) years or so (BRICS-2025.pdf). The acronym was coined by Jim O'Neill, Chief economist for Goldman Sachs in 2001, when he forecast that the BRICs would come dominate the global economy by the 2050s (Curtis, 2024).

As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in 2006. The grouping was formalised during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, in 2006. The first BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. It was agreed to expand BRIC to BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa at the BRIC Foreign Ministers meeting in New York in 2010. Accordingly, South Africa attended the third BRICS summit in Sanya, Russia, in 2011. A further expansion of BRICS took place in 2024 with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and United Arab Emirates (UAE) becoming full members of BRICS from 1st January, 2024. In January 2025, Indonesia joined the BRICS as a full member, while Belarus; Bolivia; Kazakhstan; Cuba;

Malaysia; Nigeria; Uganda; and Uzbekistan included as partner countries of the BRICS (BRICS-2025.pdf).

BRICS was designed to enhance the member countries' economic interests and promote their international standing. This may be interpreted as a push against the U.S. and Western Europe but, BRICS nations also have a responsibility to and defend their interests. In this context, one key advantage of BRICS nations is their large population, which translates to a bigger market (The Nation, July 16, 2025:14).

The organisation gathers yearly for summits-concerning trade and sustainable development to strengthen its position as a rival to the Western-dominated world. The BRICS alliance regularly faces comparison with various international economic bodies such as the G7 and the G20. Formed of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom (U.K.) and the United States (U.S.), the G7 has long shaped economic policies worldwide (O'Neill, 2001). Both developed and developing economies are represented in the G20 with the broader avenue for global economic talks. Yet BRICS forms its own fraction in the G20. Bringing their collective interests to the forefront at the G20 inequity reforms that boost representation of emerging economies in global international bodies is what the BRICS nations pursuer (Moch, 2024:86-100). As a counterweight to the G7 in the G20 setting, BRICS advocates for the Global South and opposes the influence of developed economies on international economic matters (Duggan, Hooijmaaijers, Rewizorski and Arapova, 2002:469-480). The G7 gets criticism for favouring the needs of rich countries over those of developing nations. Designed to reflect the interests of emerging and developing economics and to support an expansive economic order globally (Siddiqui, 2016:315-338).

The BRICS is not regulated by an international treaty or set of treaties like the European Union or The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Nor is it supported by a permanent secretariat or office. Instead, the chair of the BRICS rotates annually among the members of the bloc, in alphabetical order of the acronym (this was before the 2023 expansion, it is not clear how it will operate with the new members) (BRICS 2023 South Africa). The BRICS structure is similar to the Group of Seven (G7) and Group of Twenty (G20) organisations, neither of which have permanent secretariats but, have rotating chairs (Atlantic Council, 2024). The first ever official launch of cooperation in the form of a summit was held in 2009 to pave way for subsequent future cooperation in the social and political aspects of the union (Moch, 2024:86-1001).

The power of the BRICS can be seen in its major roles in global trading and investment channels and its demographic and geographical influence, which represents 26 per cent of Earth's area (landmass) and nearly 42 per cent of humanity (Siddiqui, 2016; Duggan, Hooijmaaijers, Rewizorski and Arapova, 2022:469-480). With their participation in determining global economic policies and endorsement of a diverse power structure during shifting geopolitics, the BRICS nations are essential in advancing multi-polarity. The main

goal of the BRICS group is to adjust the international economy to become more just and reflect the demands of less affluent countries. The major objective of the BRICS nations involves transforming structures such as the International Monetary Funds (IMF) and World Bank, so they are no longer controlled by U.S. and Europe (Duggan, Hooijmaaijers, Rewizorski and Arapova, 2002:469-480).

The BRICS countries support a more equitable sharing of voting authority in these international bodies to empower growing and developing economies in their decisions. BRICS nations concentrate on enhancing economic relations and progress among each other beyond their efforts to change global financial systems. This vision includes: encouraging international trade and investment among BRICS nations, alongside building infrastructure and improving technological partnership (Moch, 2024:87). To enhance the diversification of funding for infrastructure projects in developing countries, the BRICS nations take steps, including setting up the New Development Bank (NDB), thus opposing the control of Western financial bodies (Siddiqui, 2016).

The New Development Bank (NDB) otherwise known as BRICS Bank was started in early 2014 as one of the critical outcomes of BRICS Summit. In addition to the creation of the NDB, the BRICS group created another instrument - "the Contingent Reserve Arrangement - CRA", originally created to provide funding for BRICS members experiencing balance of payments' issues or currency problems (Moch, 2024:88). Initially, the NDB had an authorised fund size of USD 100 billion and works as a counter part to Western financial institutions such as the IMF or the World Bank (Bhowmick, 2024).

The BRICS cooperation has two mechanisms of cooperation, mentioning:

- i consultation on issues of mutual interest through meetings of leaders and ministers; and
- ii practical cooperation through meetings of Senior Officials in a number of areas including Trade, Finance, Health, Education, Science & Technology, Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Labour, Disaster Management, Anti-Corruption, Anti-Drugs, etc.

BRICS Business-to-Business engagement is through:

- BRICS Business Council; and
- BRICS Women Business Alliance.

Other BRICS exchange can broadly be categorised as: Parliamentary Exchanges;

- Seminars/Conferences Exchanges;
- Business Exchanges;
- People-to-People Exchanges; and
- Track II Meetings (BRICS -2025.pdf).

BRICS Summit So Far:

As at July 2025, seventeen BRICS Summit have taken place so far as under:

17th BRICS Summit: 6th - 7th July 2025 (Rio de Janeiro: Brazil) (The Nation, July 16, 2025);

16th BRICS Summit: 22nd - 24th October, 2024 (Kazan: Russia);

15th BRICS Summit: 22nd - 24th April, 2023 (Johannesburg: South Africa);

14th BRICS Summit: 23rd - 24th June, 2022 (Beijing: China);

13th BRICS Summit: 9th September, 2021 (New Delhi: India);

12th BRICS Summit: 17th November, 2020 (Moscow: Russia);

11th BRICS Summit: 13th - 14th November, 2019 (Brasilia: Brazil);

10th BRICS Summit: 25th - 27th July, 2018 (Johannesburg: South Africa);

9th BRICS Summit: 4th - 6th September, 2017 (Xiamen: China);

8th BRICS Summit: 15th - 16th October, 2016 (Goa: India);

7th BRICS Summit: 8th - 9th July, 2015 (Ufa: Russia);

6th BRICS Summit: 14th - 16th July, 2014 (Fortaleza: Brazil);

5th BRICS Summit: 26th - 27th March, 2013 (Durban: South Africa);

4th BRICS Summit: 29th March, 2012 (New Delhi: India);

3rd BRICS Summit: 14th April, 2011 (Sanya: China);

2nd BRICS Summit: 16th April, 2010 (Brasilia: Brazil); and

1st BRICS Summit: 16th June, 2009 (Yekaterinburg: Russia) (BRICS-2025.pdf).

The Global South:

The phrase - "Global South" refers broadly to the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa and Oceania. It is one of a family of terms, including - "Third World" and "Periphery", that denotes region outside Europe and North America, mostly (though not all) low-income and often politically or culturally marginalised. The use of the phrase - "Global South" marks a shift from a central focus on development or cultural difference toward an emphasis on geopolitical relations of power (Dados and Connell, 2025). The Global South features prominently in the context of geo-political rivalry and efforts by developing countries to change the current international economic and financial architectures. While there are questions about whether some countries-such as China and Russia-should be considered parts of the Global South (GS), it is obvious that Africa is at the centre of the group (Tran, 2024).

The term-"Global South" functions as more than a metaphor for under-development. It references an entire history of colonialism, neo-imperialism and differential economic and social changes through which large inequalities in living standards, life expectancy and access to resources are maintained. The Global North terminology like core-periphery, arose from an allegorical application of categories

to name patterns of wealth, privilege and development across broad nations (Dodos and Connell, 2025). The term-"Global South" refers to the developing economies or the third world, while the-"Global North" on the other hand, purports the advanced economies

Definition of Tariffs:

Grennes sees tariff as a tax on an imported good. Unlike a sale's tax, which is placed on a good regardless of where it is made, a tariff specifically exempts domestically produced goods. It is based on the location of production, not the location of the producer. For instance, a Toyota-model car made in Japan would be subject to the United States (U.S) tariff when imported to the U.S, while a Toyota-model car made in Kentucky, U.S.A, would not (Grennes, 2017). Tariffs are taxes charged on goods imported from other countries. Typically, they are a percentage of product's value. For example, a 25 per cent tariff on a USD10 (GBP7.59) would mean an additional USD2.50 (GBP1.90) charge, as rightly observed by Flemings (bbc.com, February 2015). An import tariff (also known as customs duty on imports) is a financial charge or tax on imported goods (e.g. 10 per cent duty on a computer worth USD1,000 would be USD100). Other types include - "Specific" tariffs based on the number on weight of imports (wto.com.income, February 2015). So, the main impact of a tariff is to raise the price and reduce the size of imported goods due on their importations. Most Customs duty are imposed on *advalorem* basis-that is, based on the value of the imported goods e.g. 10 per cent duty on a computer worth USD1,000 would be USD100). Other types include-"specific" tariffs based on the number on weight of imports (wto.com.income, February 2015). So, the main impact of a tariff is to raise the price and reduce the size of imported goods and services to the economy.

A tariff or duty (the words are used interchangeably) is a tax levied by governments on the value including freight and insurance of imported products. Different tariffs applied on different products by different countries. The tariffs with other assessments are collected at the time of customs clearance in the foreign ports. Tariffs increase the cost of products to the foreign buyers and may affect the competitiveness in the market (trade.com, April 2025). Radcliff defines tariff as a type of trade barriers that makes imported products more expensive than domestic ones. Tariff typically comes in the form of taxes and duties levied on importers and they are eventually passed on to consumers. They are commonly used in international trade as a protectionist measure (investopedia.com, February 2025).

According to Oladapo, tariff is one of the instruments of protection in Nigeria. It is associated with protectionism; the economic theory of restraining trades among nations (Oladapo, 2010:4-6). A tariff is a type of tax levied by a country on an imported good at the boarder. It is used by governments to collect additional revenues and protect the domestic producers (investopedia.com, April 2025). A tariff on imports is a duty or tax levied by a government on imported goods and services into an economy from other

economies basically calculated as a per centage of a product's value. It is aimed at discouraging foreign products and encouraging the domestically produced alternatives.

The process of setting tariff rates involves a combination of economic, political and strategic issues. Governments engage in complex negotiations and considerations of reciprocity with trading partners. Tariffs are also used as an extension of foreign policy: imposing tariffs on a trading partners' main exports is a way to exert economic leverage. A tariff imposed to rival a certain nation can bring about a relationship devolving into an unproductive cycle of retaliation known as-"retaliatory trade war" (investopedia.com, April 2025). The actual tariff rates are determined by the importing country's Customs and may therefore, differ on occasion from one's estimate. The tariff rates do not include other charges such as Value-Added-Taxes (VATs) of other fees collected by the customs or shippers which comprise the cost of a landed shipment including purchase price, freight, insurance and other fees up to the port of destination (trade.gov, April 2025). The tariffs are paid by the companies that bring the foreign goods into the country and not the exporting country.

Tariff Hike:

Tariff hike affect the consumers, businesses and countries' economic development with its regressive disproportionately. Indeed, tariff hike would hit the consumers in the rural areas harder as they pay more for the manufactured goods than the consumers in the rural areas as they pay more for the manufactured goods than the consumers in the urban areas (investopedia.com, April 2025). Arinze, Onakoya and Iwayemi write that tariff increases (hikes) are associated with persistent economically and statistically-significant declines in domestic output and production as well as higher unemployment, inequality, real exchange rate, appreciation and insignificant changes to the trade balance (Arinze, Onakoya and Iwayemi, 2023:92-118).

President Donald Trump's Confrontational Trade Policies against the BRICS Nations and Others:

President Donald Trump's of the United States of America (U.S.A) has always been disdainful of the BRICS nations since its formation. In 2024, he threatened 100 per cent tariffs on BRICS countries if they moved ahead with their proposed currency, to rival the United States' dollar. A development, he labelled as - "de-legitimising the U.S. dollar (The Guardian, July 14, 2025). On February 10, 2025, Trump imposed the 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium imports into the United States saying:

It is 25 per cent without exceptions or exemptions. That is all countries no matter where they come from, all countries (The Punch, February 14, 2025:22).

Earlier, Trump imposed a 10 per cent tariff on some Chinese products. China retaliated by imposing tariffs on a range of US products from February 10, 2025 (The Punch, February 14, 2025:22). The confrontational trade policies of Trump's

administration has repeatedly used unfavourable tariffs as leverage in trade negotiations, a tactic that has alarmed both the allies and adversaries. Early this year (2025), the United States imposed a 14 per cent tariff on Nigerian imports and other commodity-exporting nations. This move, combined with the looming 10 per cent increase, has sparked fears of a broader trade war targeting the emerging economies.

On July 7, 2025, as the member states of the fledgling association of the Global South and a growing economic bloc otherwise called BRICS, were holding their 17th Summit in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, Trump threatened to impose a fresh tariff hike on them labeling the group-"a gang-up against United States of America". He warned thus on his Truth social media:

Any country aligning itself with the anti-American policies of BRICS would be charged in additional 10 per cent tariff. There would be no exceptions to this policy. (The Nation, July 16, 2025:14).

Trump's threat emerged after the BRICS members criticised US tariff policies, proposed some reforms to the International Monetary Funds (IMF) and discussed how major currencies are valued. After the two-day meeting (July 6-7, 2025), in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, The BRICS Finance Ministers issued a statement criticising the newly imposed tariff by Trump as a threat to the global economy as they have bought uncertainty into the international economy and trade activities.

On Monday, July 7, 2025, the United States' President, Donald Trump, signed an executive order delaying his July 9, 2025, tariff deadline to August 1, 2025, the White House announced as the administration targets multiple countries with trade measures. The tariff deadline was earlier set for the 9th July, 2025, marking the end of a 90-day pause on the previously announced high tariffs that were initially imposed on April 2, 2025. So, the reciprocal tariff rate, or these new rates that would be provided in this correspondence to these foreign leaders would be going out the door within next month, or deals would be made. On Monday, 7th June, 2025, Trump announced that Washington would impose 25 per cent tariff on goods from Japan and South Korea starting August 1, 2025, warning that tariffs could exceed 25 per cent if South Korea and Japan respond with their own tariffs on U.S. goods (The Nation, July 8, 2025:26).

Retaliatory Tariffs or Counter Measures:

International trade watchers believe that President Donald Trump's 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium imports would hit Canada, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Vietnam and Japan the most. These countries are the largest exporters of the products to the United States' Market. (The Punch, February 14, 2025:22). Indeed, the trade war which Trump is igniting would sternly affect the U.S. and the global economy at large as the European Union (EU) vowed to retaliate should Trump imposed any unproductive tariffs on EU exports to the US.

The counter measures which were due to start on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 came in response to US' Trump's initial import

tariffs on the European steel and aluminium. So, European Union's retaliation which would have hit EUR21 billion worth of US goods was first suspended in March 2025. This break has been extended until early August, 2025. The European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, told the journalists on Sunday, July 13, 2025, thus:

The United States has sent us a letter with measures that would come into effect unless is a negotiated solution: so, we would therefore also extend the suspension of our counter-measures until early August.

At the same time, we would continue to prepare for the counter-measures so, we are fully prepared (The Guardian, July 14, 2025:3).

Those unproductive confrontational or unilateral trade policies of President Donald Trump of United States of America (U.S.A) have been globally adjudged to be unfair, inhuman and destructive, while the world leaders across the Global North and Global South pledging to continue to negotiate with the U.S.A for a broader trade deal before the August 1, 2025 deadline.

In furtherance, the BRICS nations joint statement to Trump's threat at BRICS Summit, July 2025 expressed serious concerns about the rise of "unilateral tariff measures" warning that such actions could fragment the global economy and erode multilateral trade frameworks. They thereby emphasised the need for a genuine cooperative global order.

Shari'ah Overview on Trump's Confrontational Trade Policies:

The divine objective for the creation of mankind by Almighty Allah is to actually understand one another and cooperate among themselves on lawful things (halal). This is the eternal Message of Allah, Who says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and female and made you into nations and tribes, that you may understand each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous of you (Qur'an 49:13).

The nations across the globe are interdependent. No economy however, powerful, or endowed with natural endowments, has the total natural endowments needed for her survivals in all spheres of life. They cannot source them unilaterally hence they require due global policy responses based on effective global cooperation i.e. genuine cooperative global order as the prime condition for the expansive global economic order.

With the confrontational trade policies, the mitigation of climate change, communicable disease control, international financial stability, fight against terrorism and nuclear non-proliferation which are categorised by the economists as- "the global public goods" as potential global conditions that implicitly and explicitly affect every economy either partly or wholly, can never be redressed or checkmated and as such,

would continue to impede growth and development in the Global South. Sanctioning the static effects of confrontational trade policies, the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) in a Hadith reported by Anas Bun Mālik, may Allah be pleased with him, reiterates thus:

يَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُعَسِّرُوا وَيَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُعَسِّرُوا

Make things easy and do not make them difficult. Encourage people and do not discourage them (Sahih Muslim, 1, 734).

The above Hadith establishes the fact that a sustainable operating costs would really support an expansive economic order as it would genuinely attract economic cooperation, good compliances from the commodity-exporting countries, relieve the commodity-importing or dependent nations and solidify the rising market concentration in the global trade. This Hadith also makes it evident that confrontational trade policies would sharply affect the preferential, regional and intra-regional trading arrangements among groupings of the developing economies and the advanced economies as well. Countering the unproductive dominant trends in the contemporary world, Allah says:

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخَفِّفَ عَنْكُمْ وَخُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَوْسَعًا ۗ ۲۸

Allah desires that He should make your burdens light hence man is created weak (Q4:28).

The above Qur'anic verse enunciates that the Global North in their global trade policies, should always consider the Global South often characterised by lower standards of living, poverty and limited access to resources, by making sure that they do not add to the socio-economic challenges of the developing economies but, improve their weak socio-economic situations through productive policies. In furtherance, Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً عَنْ تَرَاضٍ مِّنْكُمْ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا ۲۹

O you who have believed, do not consume one another's wealth unjustly but only [in lawful] business by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves [or one another]. Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful."

In another Hadith reported by Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, Allah's Messenger (S.A.W.) also warned his sahabah (companions) against imposition of any undue rigorous policies and hardships as he urges them on easy availability of necessities of life saying:

... فَإِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُكُمْ مُبَسِّرِينَ وَلَمْ تُبْعَثُوا مُعَسِّرِينَ

Surely, you have been sent to make things easy and not to make them difficult (Sahih Al-Bukhari).

This sunnatic expression is an indicative of the injunction that no super nations should use their global positions to oppress, or exploit other nations through any confrontational decisions or policies rather, they should strive harder to make the life a peaceful and cooperative place to stay for every economy. They should see their flourishing socio-economic positions among the comity of nations as Allah's doing and not their

own making. So, imposing undue tariffs on the trading partners' main exports as a way of exerting economic leverage against certain economies or groupings out of self centredness is quite unislamic.

During the caliphate of 'Umar Ibn Kattab, may Allah be pleased with him, external trade expanded to the Islamic State, as a group of people with whom the Muslims had no pact, of non-aggression - "*Ahlul-Harb*", wrote 'Umar asking him to be given access with their trading goods to the Arabian land and in turn, they offered to give him 10 per cent (tithe) of their merchandise. 'Umar consulted the companions of Allah's Messenger (S.A.W) and they unanimously agreed to the request. In a report given by Abu Yusuf, Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari wrote to 'Umar informing him that Muslim merchants were required to surrender one-tenth (tithe/ '*Ushur*') of their merchandise each time they went for trading in non-Muslim territories, 'Umar replied saying: take from their (foreign) merchants, the same as they take from the Muslim merchants (Abu Yusuf, n.d.:21).

So, the affirmation of '*Ushur* (one-tenth 'tithe') as a rule was considered by Islamic state for political reasons and not for economic ones. Due to this, '*Ushur* was applied by the Islamic State as a principle of reciprocity or principle of reciprocal treatment making 'Umar bun Khattab, the third rightly-guided *Khalifah* (caliph), to be the first Muslim tithe-taker. He later reduced it to 5 per cent-"*khums*" with a view to attracting more suppliers of lawful foreign items to the Islamic State (Yusuf, 2023:49-62).

From the consensus approach (*Ijtihad*) of the Muslim Ummah under the leadership of 'Umar bun Khattab, it is clear that the looming retaliatory trade tariffs or counter measures coming from the European Union, the BRICS nations and other economies, against the United States of America, if President Donald Trump goes ahead with their implementation, after series of negotiations and renegotiations, is quite Islamic as far as the principle of reciprocity or principle of reciprocal treatment is concerned.

Recommendation:

This work recommends that the United States of America (U.S.A.) should uphold the founding principles behind the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that legislates economic cooperation among the developing economies - "Global South" especially through trade.

Conclusion:

The global socio-economic cooperation is natural. It is the Divine Architecture of the Creator, Allah, as every economy needs another economy to move on. The nations across the globe are interdependent. No economy however, powerful, or endowed with natural endowments, has the total natural endowments needed for her survivals in all spheres of life. They cannot source all unilaterally hence they require due global policy responses based on effective global cooperation, i.e. genuine cooperative global order as the prime condition for the expansive global economic order.

Bringing a balanced approach to global finance, the existing global institutions and economic architecture such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank which are typically Western-oriented organisations are disadvantageous to the developing economies. Adoption of more inclusive and equitable framework that takes into consideration, the economic realities of low-income and emerging economies, especially in Africa continent is non-negotiable.

Continuous pegging of the world currencies to the United States dollar's value by the IMF and World Bank, dollarising the global economic activities is outrageous and condemnable hence the Bretton Woods Agreement/system that made gold as the basis for the U.S. dollar and pegged other world currencies to the U.S. dollar's value, was dissolved in the 1970s, having been in the global system from 1944. Floating of more regional, intra-regional, or grouping currencies for fairer accessible financing across the universe in addition to the existing Communauté française d'Afrique (CFA franc) which has been in use since 1945 comprising: the West African CFA franc (ISO 4217 currency code XOF); and the Central African CFA franc (ISO 4217 currency code XAF) and was later pegged to the Euro, and the Euro should be encouraged and allowed to operate concurrently. In this context, the proposed BRICS currency would serve the global trade so economically.

The theme and approach for India's 2021 BRICS chairship that coincided with the 15th anniversary of BRICS- "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus" must be their super watchword in responding to President Donald Trump's confrontational trade policies more than ever. They need to be more focused in their vision for a multi-polar world, act in unison and continue to harp on their collective interests in getting a fair deal for their nations within the global system and that the group is by no means a gang up against U.S.A. or the Global North.

The divine objective of creation of the universe by Allah is for the generality of mankind to principally understand one another in all spheres of life and not for confrontational or retaliatory purposes. As such, genuine institutionalisation of the Islamic principle of cooperative global order - "Quran 49:13" in the global trade policies, would indeed mark an end to confrontational trade policies and bring about the balanced approach to the global financing for economic prosperity.

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