



# THE GROUP OF EIGHT

## BACKGROUND GUIDE ALEMUN 2026

**Topic:** Addressing the impacts of economic fragmentation on national security, global governance, and international economic stability.

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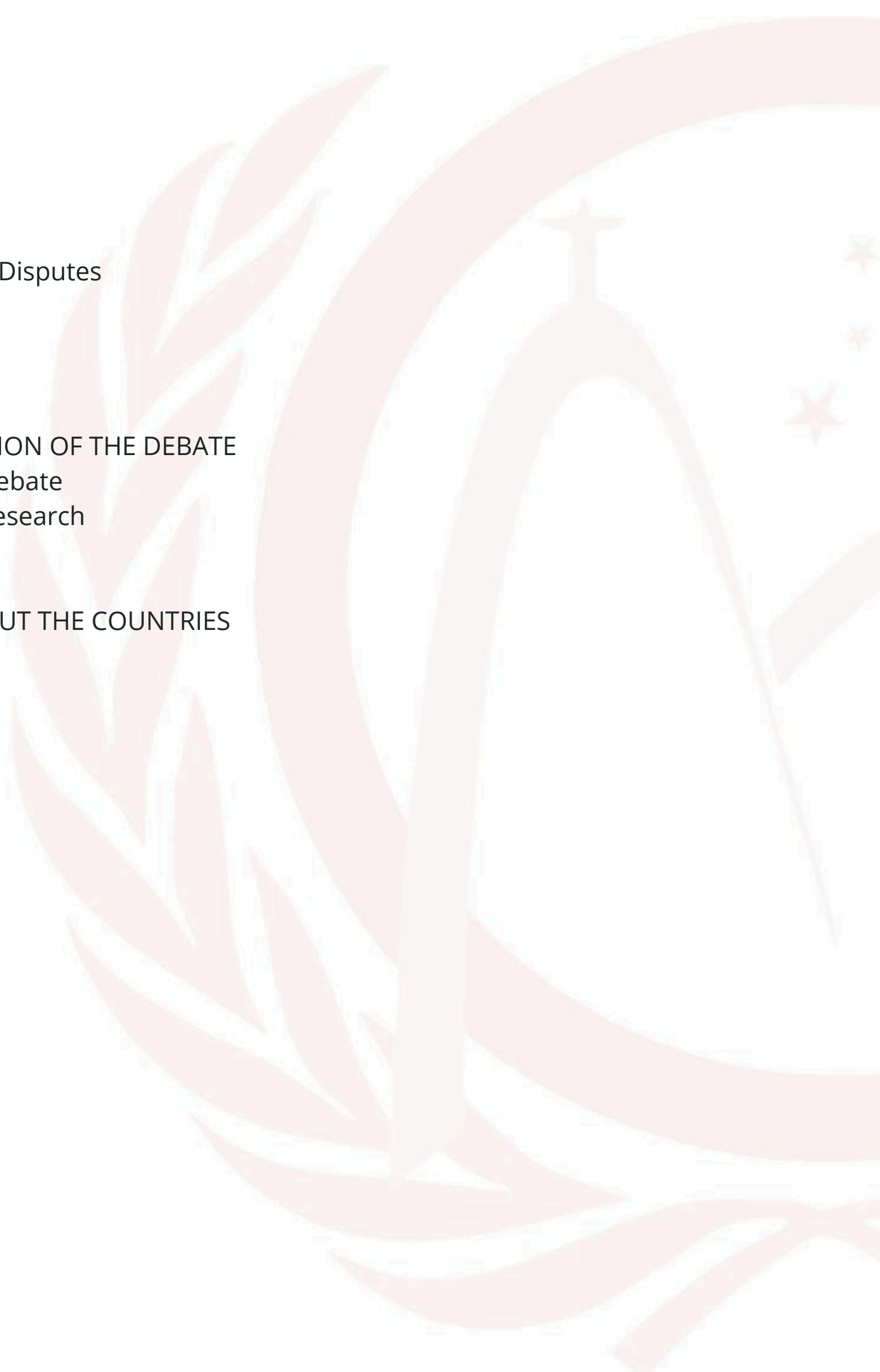
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# 1. GREETING WORD

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AleMun 2026! We are Maria Eduarda Coda (12th grade) and Manuela Hakme (11th grade), students at Deutsche Schule Corcovado, and we are deeply honored to be chairs in this year's G8 council. Over the 3 days of the event, we will discuss the following topic: "Addressing the impacts of economic fragmentation on national security, global governance, and international economic stability"

The G8 council brings together the world's major economies to discuss economic issues, security, and international affairs. The impact of economic fragmentation on national security, global governance, and international economic stability is very relevant to the council's mission, as it raises geopolitical tensions, creates trade barriers, and leads to fragmented supply chains. This discussion is crucial for promoting dialogue among nations, strengthening multilateral cooperation, and developing strategies to reduce instability while ensuring sustainable economic growth and international security.

As we begin this conference, we are honored to serve as moderators, guiding the debates throughout our sessions. The topic we have chosen highlights one of the most complex challenges in today's globalized world, and we look forward to witnessing the innovative proposals and collaboration that will emerge during the committee. We encourage all delegates to take part, share their perspectives, and engage in constructive diplomacy. Through cooperation, critical thinking, and negotiation, this council will help deepen our understanding of the challenges created by economic fragmentation and explore ways to achieve greater global stability.

Once again, we are truly honored to be a part of this gathering, and we eagerly anticipate the vibrant debates and constructive resolutions that will emerge during our time together. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to working with you throughout this process.

We wish you all the best of luck with your preparation, and see you in the G8!

Best regards,

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# 2. GROUP OF EIGHT

## 2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Group of Eight, formerly the Group of Seven (G7), is an intergovernmental forum that originated in 1975 through informal summits between the world's leading industrialized nations: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan. While Canada did not attend the initial meeting, it joined shortly thereafter, and the President of the European Commission began participating in 1977. In 1994, the Russian Federation was invited to join discussions. This invitation became official in 1997, turning the G7 into the G8, sometimes referred to as the "Political Eight". However, in 2014, following Russia's annexation of Crimea, the original G7 nations suspended Russia's membership indefinitely, effectively reverting the group to the G7 format.

For the purposes of AleMUN 2026, our G8 committee will consist of the following countries:

- Federative Republic of Brazil
- Federal Republic of Germany
- State of Japan
- Republic of India
- Republic of South Africa
- Republic of Türkiye
- People's Republic of China
- United States of America

This redefined G8 allows for a broader and more contemporary representation of global power and regional influence, especially in light of the further debated geopolitical and economic challenges.

## 2.2 STRUCTURE OF THE G8

The G8 has no formal charter, permanent secretariat, or extensive bureaucracy. It is a flexible and informal platform for world leaders to meet and deliberate over pressing global issues. The agenda evolves depending on international circumstances, ranging from trade disputes and financial crises to contemporary concerns such as environmental sustainability, debt relief, economic stability, and international security.

When global concerns extend beyond economics to include terrorism, human rights, arms control, or regional security, the G8 has historically taken a leading role in facilitating dialogue and proposing solutions. Before each summit, personal representatives of the leaders, known as "sherpas", prepare the groundwork. These individuals (often ambassadors, senior diplomats, or ministers) coordinate the agenda, draft preliminary documents, and organize follow-up meetings. Outcomes from G8 summits often inform the deliberations of institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Annual meetings rotate among member states, enabling leaders to forge personal relationships, prioritize global issues, and coordinate strategies for international cooperation. Since the late 1990s, these meetings have drawn increasing attention from global media and civil society groups, particularly due to rising concerns over globalization and inequality.

## 2.3 G8'S MISSION

The mission of the G8 is to foster international collaboration to address shared economic and political challenges. One of its core aims is to support national policies and programs that promote sustainable, private sector-led development, especially in the Global South, to ease poverty and achieve the international development targets outlined in the Millennium Declaration and its successors. G8 member states work to ensure that bilateral and multilateral assistance mobilizes both capital and expertise. These efforts aim to support the self-determined growth strategies of developing countries and to complement official development assistance (ODA), which remains vital for poverty reduction and social development.

# 3. TOPIC BACKGROUND

## 3.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC DISPUTES

It is not only in current times when economic fragmentation prevails, but rather it has prevailed since ancient times, where there has been a previous occurrence of geopolitical tensions along with poor economic performance, resulting in this division within the global economy. Two major blocks emerged in the economic and political world during the Cold War era, led by the United States and the Soviet Union. Economic ties and trade between these rival blocks were limited because the influence of ideology and national security significantly dominated international affairs. Being wary about this economic crisis, just like the Great Depression witnessed in the 1930s, various countries reacted with trade policies involving high tariffs and restrictions on imports, thus further reducing international trade.

However, there is another way to compare this contemporary economic segmentation of the world to previous times, when taking into account the increased globalization and economic interdependency that occurred because of the Cold War period. Advancements in transportation, communication, and technology during the 1990s and early 2000s led to higher levels of global commerce through the development of complex international supply chains that have created several economically dependent countries.

Several major events have also shaped the global economy since the establishment of the international economic system after the Second World War. The Global Financial Crisis of 2008 highlighted some weaknesses within the global financial system and issues regarding the interdependence of the economies. With the passage of time, trade disputes between two of the most developed countries in the world – the USA and China – have led to increased technological and industrial competition, causing further issues in the global economy. Another major event that is causing problems for the global economy at the moment is the COVID-19 pandemic.

More recently, geopolitical tensions, sanctions, and competition for vital technologies and raw materials have compelled several nations to reevaluate their economic models. Nations worldwide are now increasingly considering building resilience in their economies by boosting domestic production and securing more economic freedom, meaning severing ties of economic dependence on rival nations. Therefore, economic fragmentation, national security, technological competition, and international governance in the future are now interrelated.

## 3.2 CURRENT SITUATION

Economic fragmentation has become a central topic in today's international politics. Tensions between countries, sanctions, disagreements regarding trade, and rising competition for technology and strategic resources have contributed to economic fragmentation in the global market. Economic policies, implemented by different countries aimed at ensuring national security and economic resilience, include the implementation of export controls, limiting foreign investment, and reconfiguring global supply chains. The ongoing confrontation between the United States and China exemplifies how such measures can reshape international relations and redefine global economic trends.

Fragmentation concerns go beyond bilateral competition. The global community tends to reduce dependency on other countries in terms of basic commodities, including semiconductors, energy, artificial intelligence, and strategic minerals. The US Chips Act, the EU Critical Raw Materials Act, and the recent Chinese export restriction on gallium and germanium exemplify this trend. Economic policies related to these materials and technologies, when framed as national security strategies, contribute to the disruption of trade relations, rising production costs, and growing investor hesitancy.

The developing countries bear a much heavier burden of the consequences. Considering their heavy reliance on the international economy, foreign investment, and commodity prices, they tend to be caught up in a rivalry among economic blocks with little or no say in the process of setting new rules in their environment. They tend to associate fragmentation with underdevelopment, reduced access to capital, and vulnerability to sudden external shocks.

From an institutional perspective, economic fragmentation poses significant governance challenges. As more and more countries take a unilateral course and engage in economic protectionism, international organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the G20 find it difficult to remain relevant and ensure cooperation between members. The ability to address common dangers in the realm of climate change, financial crisis, and pandemic becomes increasingly difficult when the very basis of multilateralism, trust, is shaken.

### 3.3 IMPLICATIONS ON GLOBAL STABILITY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Economic fragmentation is one of the major problems in the world today, as it poses a threat to economic development and stability as well as to the relations between countries. With economic fragmentation, trade agreements and supply chains get disrupted, which causes increases in the cost of production and prices, as well as slow economic growth.

Developing economies that depend on international trade, foreign investments, and imports are usually the most affected by economic fragmentation. The reason for this is that many of these countries depend on these factors to facilitate economic growth and reduce poverty in the country. Nevertheless, when countries become more protectionist and implement barriers in their trade, the growth process in developing countries can become much more complicated.

Economic fragmentation makes joint actions and cooperation among countries more difficult. Sanctions, trade limitations, and export controls are often used as tools for national protection. This, however, leads to more political and economic rivalries, which complicate cooperation on a global scale in different matters, including the climate crisis, energy safety, and future economic crises.



# 4. IMPORTANT FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE DEBATE

## 4.1 TOPICS TO FOCUS ON DURING THE DEBATE

- What does “economic fragmentation” mean, and how should it be defined in the context of national security?
- How should international organizations such as the IMF and WTO respond to the realities of an economically fragmented world?
- Is regionalization a possible strategy for combating economic fragmentation, or does it worsen the issue?
- How should one prioritize strategic supply chains without adopting protectionist measures that contribute to destabilizing international trade?
- Which safeguards should be implemented to ensure that economic fragmentation does not lead to geopolitical disputes?
- How does economic fragmentation disproportionately affect developing economies, and what measures can be implemented to reduce these inequalities?

## 4.2 GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- Which trade policies and economic alliances does your country currently support, and what impacts does geopolitics have on them?
- How does your country set boundaries between national sovereignty and international collaboration in economic matters?
- What steps has your country taken to ensure diversified and resilient supply chains in the context of global fragmentation?
- How does your government respond to international pressure regarding protectionist and unilateral economic policies?
- Is your country more vulnerable as a trade-oriented nation or as an influential economy promoting fragmentation? What are its objectives?
- What geopolitical or historical factors influence your country’s position in global economic governance?
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# 5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRIES

## 5.1 Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil positions itself as a mediator between the G8 and the Global South, advocating for a balanced international trade system. Furthermore, Brazil plays a pivotal role within the BRICS grouping, utilizing the block as a platform to amplify the voice of emerging economies in global decision-making.

The government views economic fragmentation as a pretext for protectionism, particularly regarding environmental regulations that impact emerging markets. Their priority is a structural reform of the IMF and WTO to create a governance model that reflects current global demographics rather than the 1945 status quo. Brazil maintains that national security is dependent on food and energy security, both of which require stable multilateral cooperation.

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## 5.2 Federal Republic of Germany

Germany follows a strategy of "de-risking" to reduce strategic vulnerabilities without fully decoupling from global markets. This shift was significantly accelerated by recent geopolitical events, particularly the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the resulting energy crisis, which exposed the dangers of over-reliance on single suppliers and underscored the need for greater strategic autonomy.

As an export-heavy economy, Berlin is cautious about fragmentation that could disrupt the supply chains necessary for its industrial sector. The focus is on diversifying suppliers for energy and raw materials while strengthening European strategic autonomy. Germany continues to support a rules-based order, viewing the stability of the Euro and the WTO as essential to its national security interests.

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<https://www.bundesbank.de/en>

## 5.3 Japan

Japan treats economic policy as a fundamental component of national security. The government is focused on protecting critical technologies, such as semiconductors and AI, from industrial espionage and economic coercion. Tokyo advocates for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" to ensure the security of maritime trade routes. Their strategy relies on deepening cooperation with democratic allies to build resilient supply chains that can withstand geopolitical shifts and external pressure.

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#### 5.4 Republic of India

India maintains a policy of "strategic autonomy," positioning itself as a leader for the Global South. The country actively leverages its partnerships and participation in blocks such as BRICS to reinforce this autonomy, ensuring it can engage with multiple power centers independently.

The administration views global supply chain diversification as an opportunity to expand its domestic manufacturing base through the "Make in India" initiative. India opposes the creation of a new bipolar world order, instead pushing for a multipolar system where global financial institutions are more inclusive. They argue that international stability must not compromise the food and energy needs of developing nations.

<https://www.mea.gov.in>

<https://www.niti.gov.in>

<https://www.investindia.gov.in>

<https://www.rbi.org.in>

#### 5.5 Republic of South Africa

South Africa focuses on the risks that economic fragmentation poses to global finance and the sovereignty of African states. The government is concerned that geopolitical rivalries increase borrowing costs and hinder debt relief efforts. They argue that the division of the world into trade blocks threatens regional integration and economic development. Pretoria calls for a global governance system that prioritizes poverty eradication and de-escalates tensions between major powers to maintain financial stability.

<http://www.dirco.gov.za>

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<https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home>

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#### 5.6 Republic of Türkiye

Turkey utilizes its geography to act as a bridge between competing economic zones.

Despite its NATO membership, Ankara maintains trade and energy ties with both Western and Eastern partners, including Russia and China. Their national security strategy is tied to being an indispensable corridor for global logistics and energy transit, such as through the "Middle Corridor." Turkey views economic fragmentation as an opportunity to reinforce its role as a regional hub for trade and infrastructure.

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#### 5.7 People's Republic of China

China views "de-risking" and Western trade barriers as attempts to contain its economic and technological development. Beijing argues that these policies violate free trade principles and destabilize the global economy. Consequently, China is accelerating its efforts toward technological self-reliance and expanding alternative financial networks through the Belt and Road Initiative and BRICS+. They advocate for a multipolar economic order that reduces global dependence on the US dollar.

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## 5.8 United States of America

The United States has shifted toward "friend-shoring," prioritizing national security over market efficiency. The administration implements export controls on dual-use technologies to prevent them from reaching geopolitical rivals. However, this shift highlights a growing tension between the U.S.'s traditional support for free markets and its increasing use of protectionist measures, such as subsidies, tariffs, and export controls.

The focus is on rebuilding domestic manufacturing and securing supply chains with trusted allies. For the U.S., global economic stability depends on protecting intellectual property and ensuring that international trade rules reflect democratic and market-oriented values.

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Good luck, delegates!

