

EVOLUTION OF ACCOUNTING PROFESSION IN THE BRICS COUNTRIES

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The role of professional accountants in the development of accounting is undeniable. Professional accountants are those who make considerable efforts, along with state structures, in harmonizing accounting with international accounting standards. In the BRICS economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) the accounting profession is represented by structures that operate independently, having a key role in establishing accounting principles and practices. The development of accounting is closely linked to the development of economic relations in society and has its own history. In this article we aim to determine whether accounting in the BRICS economies is progressive and whether accounting changes are evolving. Thus, the purpose of this article is to give an overview of the evolution of the accounting profession in emerging BRICS economies and to analyze the role of the accounting profession in these countries in accounting harmonization and convergence with international accounting standards (International Financial Reporting Standards).

Keywords: *accounting profession; accounting; BRICS; history.*

JEL Classification: *M40.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The globalization of the world's economies and the continuous development of business relations are new challenges for the accounting profession. Professional accountants are those who respond to the information needs of stakeholders, developing accounting policies and practices that ensure a fair relationship between business participants. The accounting profession has faced many challenges, from paper accounting to digital accounting. Digitization of accounting is a real challenge for professional accountants, thanks to technological innovations and the so-called technological revolution in business.

In BRICS economies, the accounting profession is the link between the needs of the state and the needs of the business environment. The accounting profession being directly involved, together with the state regulatory bodies, in the elaboration of the accounting regulations for the good development of the business relations. At the same time, it should be noted that the accounting profession plays a key role in the process of transition from national accounting standards to the international reporting framework (International Financial Reporting Standards).

The origins of the accounting profession in BRICS economies date back to the early 19th century, with the development of accounting schools and the need for professional accountants to expose their problems in a platform that represented them. With the creation of accounting schools, the volume of specialized literature began to grow, dealing with the problems faced by professional accountants in managing the relationship between the business environment and the state. Even though most of the business was controlled by the state at the time, there was still a need for control over its business, and it was necessary to develop a reporting framework and legislation to meet the current needs of the time. Thus, professional accountants are the ones who laid the foundations for the development of accounting policies and practices, which had to meet the needs of all types of business, from industry to agriculture. The process of developing the accounting profession in emerging economies BRICS has been a difficult one, due to the fact that in these countries the liberal activity of the accounting profession is marginalized by the state.

The increase in the number of multinationals has raised the issue of creating an international reporting framework that provides users of financial-accounting information with comparable information. In this regard, a global "transition movement" has emerged from the national accounting standards to the International Financial Reporting Standards. Professional accountants were directly involved in the entire transition process, adapting IFRSs to the customs of the country of residence.

The development of accounting is closely linked to the development of economic relations in society and has its own history. In this article we aim to determine whether accounting in the BRICS economies is progressive and whether accounting changes are evolving.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Accounting practices in Brazil have existed since 1580, widely used in social security institutions (Costa, 1966), as well as in the activity of mining, as a record of crown taxes (Sa, 1980). Accounting at the time was just a relief technique. As a rudimentary practice, accounting has evolved with the evolution of trade in goods and services.

Accounting and economic literature in Brazil began in 1748, with the work „Calculations on the extraction of money from the kingdom” written by the first Brazilian economist, Alexandre de Gusmao (Rodrigues, 1985: 3).

The first regulation of the accounting profession has its origins in 1770, when the privileges of accountants trained in trade courses to be registered with the Trade Council were granted. Accountants employed by the Trade Council were required to record all accounts (outflows and inflows) by the mercantile method.

During this period, the second economist in Brazil and Portugal, José Joaquim da Cunha Azeredo Coutinho, began writing and producing his works: in 1791, „Memory on the Price of Sugar”; in 1794 „The Economic Essay on the Trade of Portugal and its Colonies”; „Analysis of the Justice of the Salvation of Slaves” in 1796; „Speech on the present state of Minas do Brasil” in 1804.

In 1808, a department of economics was created in the city of Rio de Janeiro. In the same year it was created in the ”Federal District”, „the Royal Court of Commerce, Agriculture, Factories and Navigation and the Royal Treasury” (Royal Erário).

In 1901, at the National Congress, Leôncio de Carvalho created the University of Rio de Janeiro, including the Academy of Commerce. „The first business school was that of the University of Rio de Janeiro, followed by the Álvares Penteado business school, extending trade regulation education in 1905” (Rodrigues, 1985).

One of the oldest existing publications, no doubt, was that of Professor Horácio Berlinck (1921), the first edition of which dates from 1901, on commercial accounting, in which he included several industrial and actuarial applications.

Among the most representative events that marked the accounting system in Brazil are:

1808 – Legalization of the double party - the first step for the organization of the Treasury;

1827 – The obligation to send the statement of revenue and expenditure to Parliament was established;

1830 – Establishing the first budget;

1832 – The first Accounting Regulation, consisting of 46 articles;

1903 – Initiation of the project regarding the elaboration of the Public Accounting Code;

1922 – The Public Accounting Code was made public, consisting of 927 articles;

1964 – Public Finance Law;

1971 – Establishment of the Institute of Independent Auditors in Brazil, etc.

„During the 1970s and 1980s, the government took several steps to encourage the development of stock markets, for example, tax incentives were granted to listed companies, as well as to investors who purchased shares in publicly owned companies; the government has also asked pension funds and insurance companies to invest a minimum percentage of their assets in public companies; these measures fueled the growth of stock markets and, by the end of the 1980s, the number of publicly traded companies had risen to almost 600” (www.cvm.gov.br; Law 6385).

„In order to ensure the proper functioning of the markets and to protect the interest of investors, in 1976 the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission - Comissão de Valores Mobiliários or CVM was created” (www.cvm.gov.br; Law 6385).

In 1976 a new corporate law (Law 6404) „was adopted which became the basis of accounting practices, the law created separate rules for private and public corporations, eliminated old public servants brokers, and allowed the emergence of private stock exchanges and broker dealers” (Black et al. 2009).

A major milestone in Brazil's accounting is accounting reform, which is based on national standards converging on IPSAS. „The origin of the accounting reform dates back to 2000, when the Law on Fiscal Responsibility was approved” (Lopes Cardoso, Aquino and Pigatto; 2014). „This law included some guidelines on accrual accounting and required the preparation and presentation of cost accounting information. Approval of the IMF's 2001 Handbook of Public Finance Statistics Increased Brazilian Government's Interest in Reforming Public Sector Accounting” (Adde et al., 2014).

„In the 2000s, some progress was made towards modernizing government accounting, including the creation of the Convergence Committee in 2007. It operated within the Federal Accounting Council, with the participation of accountants from various states and municipalities. The National Treasury of the Ministry of Finance was one of the top institutions. In 2008, the Ministry of Finance decided to converge the accounting standards of the Brazilian public sector with IPSAS and put the Treasury in charge of the convergence process to include all levels of government: central, state and municipal. Subsequently, in 2009, through a decree, the function of strengthening the regulation of public sector accounting was officially delegated to the National Treasury.” (Adde et al., 2014). „To date, the Treasury has created the Brazilian accounting manual, which includes guidelines on the practical implementation of standards” (Lopes Cardoso, Aquino and Pigatto, 2014).

„The convergence plan includes the disclosure of IPSAS to all public sector accountants in a Portuguese written version. Although the implementation of the commitment base in Brazil is based on IPSAS, the adoption is not complete, but is based on a convergence towards these standards. Having a convergence plan instead of a comprehensive adoption plan gives some flexibility to accounting reform” (Adde et al., 2014).

The Brazilian central government has taken several key steps in the implementation process to pave the way for accounting reform:

- Both central and subnational governments use a single national chart of accounts.
- The National Treasury has prepared a template for financial statements that allows all levels of government to share the same financial information through their ICT systems.
- The regulations are established by law, which means that it is mandatory for the public sector to adopt the accounting manual.
- The legislation is very comprehensive and aims to consolidate public sector accounts according to the same national standards. Strengthening financial statements at all levels of government is a good source of information for the authorities.

The history of the development of accounting in Russia dates back to the Russian period of Kiev. The order of account (1654) is the first document that regulates the organization of accounting. Thanks to Peter I, in 1710, a new word "accountant" appeared in the newspaper "Moskovskie vedomosti", which meant "the person responsible for accounting".

The instruction on the organization of accounting of January 2, 1714 is one of the first state acts, which contained accounting problems. Another document is the Regulation of the Admiralty and Shipyard Administration (1722), which contained a strict system of accounting in kind for materials.

Gradually, the first educational institutions for teaching accounting appear in Russia. In Moscow and St. Petersburg, there are accounting courses in trade, agriculture, banking and other branches of accounting.

All the experience gained by previous generations required the generalization and development of accounting methodology. The journal „Accounting” became the first specialized publication to address this issue. In addition to the journal "Accounting", before the revolution of 1917 in Russia there were other magazines such as: „Journal of the Society of Accountants”, „Business World”, „Business Education”, „Accounting Bulletin”.

The second period of accounting development in Russia began after the October Revolution (1917). In the new socialist state, two views were formed on the further development of accounting. Proponents of the first trend insisted on eliminating money, while others tried to leave accounting in a pre-revolutionary form. After the revolution, at first the first trend erroneously predominated (Socolov, 1994). But the innovative direction did not last long, and the error of this movement was soon recognized in the works of V.I. Lenin. The futility of the first trend is largely due to its contradiction with the accounting system previously established in Tsarist Russia and in the economically developed countries of Europe.

On July 13, 1918, the Central Executive Committee of the RSFSR issued the basic provisions for property accounting. The accounting was entrusted to the accounting department of the State Audit Office, which had to keep the General Ledger containing only three active accounts: Real Estate, Materials, Inventory. The work began with a large inventory, inventories were compiled in triplicate, one served as the basis for enterprise accounting, the second was sent to the provincial administration, the third was sent directly to the center (Moscow).

As money quickly disappeared from the economy, the problem of the universal meter arose. The problem was serious and disagreements arose between economists and accountants. Economists believed that money was no longer needed for accounting due to the construction of communism and inflation.

The third period of accounting development in Russia began with the fall of the USSR. The growing importance of accounting in the modern period is associated with the development of new market relations, the use of international accounting standards. The accounting system in Russia has a number of features that reduce its value and hinder the normal development of the economy. These characteristics are primarily associated with the development of accounting in a planned economy.

However, Russia's economic system continues to change progressively, leading to the emergence of new types of economic activity that have not yet been reflected in the accounts. The Institute of Professional Accountants is currently engaged in accounting reform.

The evolution of India's current accounting system can be traced back to the 16th century, with India's trade links with Europe and Central Asia through the historical silk route. Indian accounting practices reflect its diversity, as India has many official languages and dozens of dialects spread across many states.

The most important events that marked and laid the foundations of the Indian accounting system are (Himanshu and Nilesh, 2018):

1857: India's first company law has been enacted.

1866: The Law on Accounting and Auditing was adopted. Official qualification as an auditor becomes required.

1913: The New Companies Act was adopted. The Accounts to be maintained are specified. In order to obtain the status of auditor, it is necessary to obtain a certificate from the local government.

1918: „The Government Accounting Diploma (GDA) was launched in Mumbai. It is a certificate of qualification, issued by the Government of India, in order to be able to practice the accounting profession freely and to obtain the status of registered accountant”(Himanshu and Nilesh, 2018).

1930: The Register of Accountants was put into practice, which was kept by the Government of India. Basically, this register is a record of certified accountants in India. The persons registered in the respective register could carry out their accounting activity throughout India.

1932: The first Board of Accountants was formed. It was intended to advise the Governor-General on matters relating to accounting and the maintenance of qualification standards.

1949: The law on chartered accountants was adopted. The term "registered accountant" has been replaced by the term "chartered accountant". Also this year on July 1, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was established.

From 1950 to 1991, the state took on a greater role in determining India's economic life. A mixed economy system has been implemented, with the state taking care of leading the economy and the private sector playing a supporting role. State regulation has extended to many areas of economic decision-making. For example, there were detailed rules on issues such as capital increase, investment in industries and regions, foreign trade, pricing and distribution, size of industrial units and industrial groups, receipt and use of foreign currency, nomination and remuneration of company directors.

The period 1974-1991 was marked by selective deregulation, driven by the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, fixed exchange rates in 1971 and rising oil prices in 1973 and 1979. This period shows some relaxation in industrial licensing and policy changes. but the foundations of the old economic order remain unchanged. India has paid a high price for its inward-looking economic development model.

On 21 April 1977, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, India's leading standard-setting body, set up the Accounting Standards Committee ("ASB") to formulate accounting standards to enable the ICAI Council to establish financial reporting. solid. ASB is composed not only of ICAI members, but also of government representatives, including the Ministry of Finance and the Chamber of Commerce.

„From 1977 to 1988, ICAI notified 11 accounting standards ("AS"), consultatively conducted by the ASB. Legal recognition and legal force were provided to accounting standards by the 1999 amendment to the Companies Act of 1956. The new subsections provided that the balance sheet and profit and loss account of the company should be prepared in accordance with the accounting standards prescribed by the central government in consultation with the National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS)” (Corey & Lansing, 1969).

This change is largely a response to the international wave of interest in the globalization of accounting standards and as part of India's economic reforms to encourage international trade and capital movements.

The authority to prescribe accounting standards in consultation with NACAS has been delegated to the government. The President and members of NACAS are appointed by the central government and come from accounting or related professions (official auditors, business secretaries), the central government, the Reserve Bank of India, etc. Prior to the change, there was no legal recognition of accounting standards. The NACAS Committee was formed in September 2001 for a term of one year. The government's press release stated that "the committee should have advised the central government on the accounting standards that should be observed, developed and implemented in the country". to meet the challenges posed by the emerging globalization of the Indian economy.”

„China has over 5,000 years of history, but accounting as a profession in China emerged after the revolution of 1911. At that time, its main purpose was to serve the development of the national economy. The evolution of the accounting profession in China has been influenced by the economic, political, cultural and social environment. After the Qing dynasty was overthrown by the 1911 revolution, the feudal economic system began to disintegrate. Foreign investors began to appear in China to develop commercial and production activities. In 1918 the Chinese government issued the Provisional Rules for Accountants. Professional public accountants first appeared in China in 1918, when the government issued the accounting provisions, stipulating that “anyone who is qualified in accordance with the provisions could apply to the government for a certificate. After passing the government-sponsored exam, a qualified accountant could run an accounting firm directly and provide accounting services to clients”(Zhao, 1987). Also, at this moment, modern accounting training centers were created at university level, being written different contemporary accounting texts. Financial and accounting legislation has also been improved by some laws (Zhang, 2005): Accounting Law (1935); Audit Law (1938); Budget law (1938); Law of Final Accounts (1938); Public Deposit Act (1938). In July 1937, the Civil Government published the centralized accounting system for all Central departments.

With the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the economy became a planned one. During this period, all bodies and all accounting staff were in close contact with central or local authorities, as there were no independent accountants or independent accounting institutions. As the services provided by professional

accountants have not been widely used, there has been a stagnation in the evolution of the accounting profession (Yugui, 2012). ”

China mainly adopted examples from the early Soviet Union and developed accounting regulations for various industries. China has corrected and improved these examples in the light of specific conditions and requirements. China has established a unified accounting system with specific Chinese cultural characteristics (Auyeng, 2002). In addition, the Maoist supported the policy of self-confidence and rejected Western learning as undesirable. The main function of accounting was to provide financial information on the use of state funds to both the company's management and government ministries. Little attention has been paid to measuring the long-term profitability and viability of economic entities.

Pressed by the vital problems of widespread poverty and the terrible delay of thirty years of communist rule, Deng challenged Mao's political rationality and improved a new policy called the "open door." In addition, China adopted numerous trade laws in the early years of Deng's modernization movement: the Joint Venture Law, the Foreign Enterprise Law, the Patent Law, the Trademark Law, the Company Law, the various tax laws (Auyeng, 2002).

Since 1980, against the background of the outward reform of political reforms, the interest in building a national accounting profession has become more and more pronounced. In October 1993, the long-awaited Law on Chartered Accountants was adopted in China, the first of its kind since the adoption of the policy of reform and opening up the economy. In addition, the roles of professional accountants have been stipulated in China's legal system, namely the Companies Law, the Securities Law, the Insolvency Law, the State Enterprise Law and the Commercial Banking Law.

The 1992 reform rebuilt the financial reporting system. It can be summarized in four points: replacing the balance sheet of the fund with a Western balance sheet; introduction of a statement of changes in financial position; reducing the number of declarations, including the elimination of the declaration on the structure of costs and fees; mandatory inclusion of explanatory notes (Chiapello, 2005).

The evolution and development of the accounting system in South Africa began in the seventeenth century due to its economic activities established as a British colony. The British colonization of South Africa in 1806 made it possible for many British accountants to settle in South Africa. In 1820, the colonial commander allowed accountants to join the colonial administration, and in 1895 the first professional accounting body, the Committee of South African Accountants, was formed by a group of professional accountants trained in Britain. This professional accounting organization was obliged to protect professional accountants and the public interest.

Among the crucial events that marked the evolution and development of accounting in South Africa are:

1864 - the Law on the Management of Cape Town Companies and Associations was adopted;

1895 - the Institute of Accountants was set up in Natal;

1904 – resident accountants were given the right to free practice;

1908- the Cape Colony Society of Accountants was formed;

1909 - the Society of Accountants and Auditors of the Orange Colony was founded;

1951 - the law of public accountants and auditors no. 51 was adopted;

1972 - the Accounting Practices Committee is established;

1973 - The new company law was adopted, which laid the basis for financial reporting in accordance with national accounting principles.

1974 - South Africa is invited to become an associate member of the IASC;

1978 - South Africa becomes a full member of the IASC.

The Companies Act of 1973 requires that the annual financial statements represent the company's financial position and results "correctly" and on a basis consistent with those of previous years. „The strategy of the accounting profession was not to address these new requirements through the new legislation, but to develop a consultative procedure for writing accounting practices, professional deliberations and formulating a consensual position on national accounting principles (GAAP).The local accounting standards developed by the accounting profession in South Africa in the late 1970s, gave the South African accounting profession international recognition” (Verhoef, Grant Samkin, 2017). „In 1979, the IASC conducted a survey of countries' compliance with IASC standards and reported that South African accounting standards could be considered generally accepted accounting practices” (Camfferman and Zeff, 2007: 175). This alignment with IAS allowed the subsequent conversion of SA GAAP (national accounting standards) to IFRS in 2005.

The flourishing and expansion of economic activities in South Africa required the continuous improvement of the accounting system. The expansion of economic activities in South Africa has created new opportunities for foreign investors to develop a business. Foreign investors need reliable and useful accounting information to enable them to make investment and economic decisions. Consequently, the development and improvement of the accounting system in South Africa has become crucial for the sustainability of its economic activities (Akinyem, Okoye and Izedonmi, 2015).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Brazil

The accounting profession in Brazil has had a major influence on the way financial reporting. In Brazil, the accounting profession is organized within the Federal Accounting Council (CFC) and the Brazilian Institute of Independent Auditors (Ibracon), which play a key role in developing accounting principles.

The Federal Accounting Council (CFC) is a corporate social authority with legal personality under public law. Created and regulated by specific legislation, Decree Law no. 9,295, of May 27, 1946, CFC has a structure, organization and operation regulated by CFC Resolution no. 1,370, of December 8, 2011, approving the General Regulations of the Accounting Council.

The CFC is made up of one representative from each state plus the federal district, with a total of 27 full members and an equal number of alternates - Law no. 11.160 / 05 - and has, among other purposes, under the legislation in force, to guide, regulate and supervise the exercise of the accounting profession, through the regional accounting councils, each in its jurisdictional base, in the states and in the federal district; develops accounting principles, the register of technical qualifications and continuing education programs, as well as the editing of Brazilian accounting standards of a technical and professional nature.

Ibracon – „The Institute of Independent Auditors of Brazil was established on December 13, 1971. Ibracon was born from the union of two institutes that brought together independent accountants and auditors: the Institute of Public Accountants of Brazil (ICPB) and the Brazilian Institute of Independent Auditors (IBAI), who came together to achieve a better structure and representation of the profession. Thus was created the Institute of Independent Auditors of Brazil (IAIB)” (<https://www.ifac.org/about-ifac/membership/country/brazil>). The Brazilian capital market, after a rapid and expressive expansion, had collapsed, causing serious problems for the economy of the time. Ibracon was present when the capital market was reorganized after the stock market crash of 1970. The institute was created precisely to help the reconstruction process, when independent auditing became mandatory for listed companies and the first set of rules on financial statements was written and adopted by Circular No. 79 of the National Bank of Brazil. „Ibracon was a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in 1977, and remains an associate to this day. The partnership with IFRS has enabled Ibracon to become the entity authorized to translate the International Financial Reporting Standards Book (IFRS), issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)” (<https://www.ifac.org/about-ifac/membership/country/brazil>). With this, it has participated and is participating in the process of convergence of international standards in all its stages, including the creation of the Accounting Committee (CPC) and the development of its work. Another important international relationship is with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Ibracon was the first to organize and establish an accounting framework for Brazil, while setting the first independent auditing standards.

The Russian Federation

The need for methodological explanations and recommendations, as well as other types of assistance, created the preconditions for the emergence of public accounting organizations.

The accounting profession in Russia dates back to the 1990s, when the Association of Accountants of the USSR was created. The main task of the Association was to provide methodological assistance to accounting practitioners. It was also assumed that the Association will participate in the development of regulations on accounting, control and economic analysis of business activities.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Association of Accountants of the USSR was transformed into the Association of Accountants and Auditors of the CIS. Until 1993, it united on a collective membership basis all the associations of accountants from the newly independent states that joined the CIS. Currently, this professional association is called the International Public Organization "Association of Accountants and Auditors" Commonwealth "(АБиАС)".

In 1996, the Regulation on the Certification of Professional Accountants was adopted (approved by the Methodological Council for Accounting of the Russian Ministry of Finance on 15 February 1996, No. 16-02-26-02 and by the CIS Association of Accountants and Auditors on 8 February 1996).

Currently, the collective members of the Association of Accountants and Auditors (АБиАС-АБИАС) are associations of accountants and auditors from nine CIS countries.

Regional associations of accountants and auditors have been set up in the Ivanovo, Smolensk and Oryol regions. They operate with the support of АБИАС in the Russian Federation. АБИАС has regional branches in over 45 cities in Russia. АБИАС is the founder of the Institute of Professional Accountants in Russia, the Audit Chamber of Russia and the Regional Federation of Accountants and Auditors "Eurasia".

The Institute of Professional Accountants (IPB) in Russia was founded in 1997. The main objectives of IPB were:

- ✓ increasing the prestige of the accounting profession;

- ✓ protecting the interests and rights of accountants;
- ✓ development of the regulatory framework;
- ✓ the introduction in practice of new forms and methods of accounting.

Since 1998, the certification of professional accountants has been completely transferred to the IPB authority. Currently, people wishing to obtain the qualification certificate of a professional accountant must join the institute as an associate member.

Currently, in accordance with art. 71 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the official statistical and accounting records are under the jurisdiction of the government of the Russian Federation. This means that the right to regulate accounting belongs to public authorities. The law "On accounting" in art. 5 entrusted the general methodological guidance of the accounting of the Government of the Russian Federation. In turn, it delegated this function to the Russian Ministry of Finance. The development of accounting regulations is carried out by the Department for the Regulation of Financial Control, Audit, Accounting and Reporting, within the Ministry of Finance.

With the approval of the Accounting Reform Program in accordance with international financial reporting standards, the Russian IPB represented the interests of professional accountants - members of the Institute, in the legislative process. The Institute of Professional Accountants was one of the developers of the Chart of Accounts for the accounting of the financial and economic activities of organizations and the Instructions for its application (approved by order of the Russian Ministry of Finance no. 94n of 31.10.2000). The most significant was IPB's contribution to the creation of relevant guidelines, methodologies and regulations that clarify accounting standards. These documents contribute to a more appropriate perception of legislative innovations.

In 2005, the Institute of Professional Accountants (IPA) was renamed the Institute of Professional Accountants and Auditors of Russia (IPBA). The Russian Ministry of Finance actively participates in the IPBA activities in Russia. The largest non-profit self-regulatory organization in the Russian Federation remains today IPBA Russia. Since 2001, the Russian IPBA has been a full member of IFAC, since 2002 it has been accredited as a professional audit association within the Russian Ministry of Finance.

India

The accounting profession in India is represented by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, which was established on July 1, 1949 as a corporate body. Over almost six decades of existence, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has not only gained recognition as a leading accounting body in the country but also globally for maintaining education, professional development, senior accounting, auditing and standards ethical. Known for its contribution to the field, ICAI is the second largest professional accounting institution in the world after the American Institute of Chartered Accountants (<https://www.icai.org/Overview.html>).

Anyone who has taken the ICAI exams and has at least three years' practical experience can obtain ICAI membership. ICAI currently has about 282,193 members.

Among the basic activities and services offered by ICAI, we list:

- ✓ Regulates the accounting profession;
- ✓ Continuous professional training of members;
- ✓ Conducting post-qualification courses;
- ✓ Formulation of accounting standards;
- ✓ Prescribing standard audit procedures;
- ✓ Establishing ethical standards;
- ✓ Ensuring the performance standards of the members;
- ✓ Exercising disciplinary jurisdiction;
- ✓ Reviewing financial reports.

The activity of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is carried on in accordance with the Chartered Accountants Act of 1949.

China

A body serving the interests of the accounting profession was established in 1988, in accordance with the Law of Chartered Accountants, entitled: Institute of Chartered Public Accountants of China (CICPA - Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants).

„CICPA has as attributions: examination and authorization of accountants, provision of services to its members, monitoring of professional ethics and the quality of services performed by members (professional accountants), being a self-disciplinary body”.

One of the shortcomings of the Chinese accounting system is that the body representing the accounting profession does not have an active role in the process of setting accounting standards, this task being exclusively the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance.

Until 1995, the audit profession was represented by an independent organization, independent of the body of the accounting profession, known as: Chinese Association of Certified Public Auditors (CACPA; Chinese

Association of Certified Public Auditors). While the Institute of Certified Public Accountants, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance was responsible for monitoring audit activities in the field of private sector enterprises, CAPCA, under the authority of the State Audit Administration, had responsibilities in the field of audit of state enterprises. In 1995 the two bodies merged, retaining the name CICPA.

Today, the audit profession in China is represented by the Auditing Standards Board (CASB), constituted in the CICPA structure, with a role in developing auditing standards, which are intended to be comparable to the standards issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

South Africa

„In South Africa, the accounting profession is represented by the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). These are the main institutions representing the accounting profession, which contribute to the normalization of accounting in South Africa by drafting national accounting standards. At the same time, these two institutions play a key role in harmonizing and converging national accounting standards with IFRS. The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) is South Africa's largest accounting body and one of the world's leading institutes. The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants was founded in 1980 and originally had 9012 members” (<https://www.ifac.org/about-ifac/membership/country/south-africa>).

In 1973, SAICA, together with other relevant business bodies, formed the Accounting Practices Committee (PDB) to develop generally accepted accounting practices and issue Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (SA GAAP). SAICA has set up an Accounting Practices Committee to be the technical advisory body of the PDB.

In 1995, the PDB decided to harmonize SA GAAP with IFRS standards. Since 2003, following an appropriate process, APB has issued IFRS standards as SA GAAP without modification. Since 2003 SA GAAP has been used by all companies in South Africa; listed, unlisted and private companies.

SAICA is one of the founding members of the Global Accounting Alliance, the only African accounting body in the alliance.

This is an agreement between the major professional accounting bodies in the significant capital markets. It was formed in 2005 in response to the emerging challenges of globalization. GAA promotes quality professional services, global member assistance, information exchange and collaboration on important international issues.

Originally named after the Association of Commercial and Financial Technicians of South Africa, the name was changed in 1986 to the Institute of Accounting Technicians of South Africa (IAT). Over time the name of the organization has undergone various changes, so in 1992 it was known as the Institute of Commercial and Financial Accountants (CFA), in 2004 the Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CPA) in 2006 the South African Institute of Professional Accountants was created (SAIPA).

The Institute of Professional Accountants of South Africa (SAIPA) is a professional association of accountants based in South Africa. SAIPA is a professional body registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and has a number of registered professional designations.

SAIPA is a professional body that brings together professional accountants. Most of its members are in the public office, providing accounting and related services, except for auditing. SAIPA membership gives accountants local and international recognition and provides the necessary knowledge, skills and functional skills that members need to effectively fulfill their responsibilities in a manner that complies with local and international regulatory frameworks and standards. , through continuous training and local education, international developments in the accounting profession.

In 1995, SAIPA became a full member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and today is one of the two accounting bodies in South Africa that are full members of IFAC.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The accounting profession in BRICS economies has had a difficult path in its development, but thanks to professional accountants and the development of accounting schools, it has managed to find its role and status in society. Thus, the accounting profession in the BRICS countries has had and has an important role in the development of accounting standards and especially in the process of transition from national accounting standards to international accounting standards. In some BRICS states, the freedom of the accounting profession is violated. For example, in China, one of the shortcomings of the Chinese accounting system is that the body representing the accounting profession does not play an active role in the process of setting accounting standards, which is the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. In India, the accounting profession has not only gained recognition as a leading accounting body in the country, but also globally for maintaining education, professional development, senior accounting, auditing and ethical standards. In Russia, the Institute of Professional Accounting was one of the most significant developers of the Chart of Accounts for the Accounting of the Financial and Economic Activities of Organizations and its Instructions for Approval (approved by order of the Russian Ministry of Finance

No. 94n of 31.10.2000). was IPB's contribution to the creation of relevant guidelines, methodologies and regulations that clarify accounting standards. These documents contribute to a better perception of legislative innovations.

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