

BRICS Digital Economy Partnership Framework

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3 Recognizing the pivotal role of the digital economy for the
4 modernization and transformation of the industry, promotion of
5 inclusive economic growth, facilitation of decision-making process
6 and stimulation of the national economies to meet the UN 2030
7 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals;

8 Acknowledging that BRICS members are at different levels of
9 digital development, thus the need to focus BRICS cooperation on
10 overcoming the digital divides, ensuring shared benefits of
11 digitalization and addressing challenges;

12 Emphasizing the commonalities and complementarities of BRICS
13 members in the digital economy, and stressing the need to explore
14 ways to leverage digital opportunities, accelerate digital
15 transformation and create new drivers for sustainable development;

16 Recalling the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 in
17 which the BRICS members committed to embrace digitalization and
18 encouraged to deepen cooperation in the framework of the
19 Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR); and the BRICS
20 Implementation Roadmap on Trade and Investment related aspects
21 of the “Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025” in which
22 the BRICS members recognized the role of digitalization can play
23 for industrialization, promotion of inclusive economic growth and
24 supporting global trade and business activities, and helping BRICS
25 economies to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

26 Considering that a forward-looking, inclusive and open BRICS
27 digital economy partnership framework is conducive to creating
28 more development opportunities, the BRICS members agree on the
29 following as a framework to advance digital economy partnership:

1. Trade facilitation

30 1.1 Subject to domestic laws and regulations and taking into account

31 capacity constraints, encourage the use of digital means to promote
32 trade facilitation, such as paperless customs clearance, use of
33 electronic documents, mutual recognition of digital authentications,
34 and use of electronic payment.

35 1.2 Encourage cooperation in the field of ICT to improve port
36 management, logistics, supply chain and trade facilitation work.
37 Considering the aim to develop a common understanding of a
38 BRICS Model E-port Network on a voluntary basis, exchange
39 experiences and good practices on managing E-ports, national single
40 windows and port community system.

2. Investment cooperation

41 2.1 Promote an enabling business environment to boost investment
42 in the digital economy in BRICS members.

43 2.2 Encourage investment in digital infrastructure in enhancing
44 connectivity and bridging the digital divide, in coordination with
45 Digital BRICS Task Force (DBTF). Enhance good practices sharing
46 in strategies and roadmaps of investment promotion on digital
47 infrastructure.

48 2.3 Explore the possibilities of economic/trade/industrial
49 cooperation among BRICS countries with a focus on digital
50 economy development.

51 2.4 Exchange information for cooperation in the area of “digital
52 industrialization” in coordination with BRICS Institute for Future
53 Networks, as appropriate.

3. Consumer protection

54 3.1 Promote consumer protection in e-commerce by advancing the
55 implementation of the BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection
56 in E-commerce.

57 3.2 Strengthen dialogues on dispute resolution in e-commerce,
58 ensuring both cost and time effective options for consumers and
59 businesses that are adapted to the characteristics of e-commerce

60 within the national framework of laws and regulations.

4. MSMEs cooperation

61 4.1 Deepen cooperation among BRICS members to support the
62 increased participation of MSMEs in the digital economy by
63 building a conducive policy environment and enhancing MSMEs'
64 digital capacities.

65 4.2 Foster close cooperation on the digital economy between
66 MSMEs of BRICS by holding relevant events and activities among
67 the government officials, business communities, academia and other
68 stakeholders.

69 4.3 Exchange good practices in leveraging digital tools including
70 digital platform for supporting entrepreneurs and technologies to
71 improve MSME's access to capital and credit, and non-financial
72 support measures, increase MSME's participation in economic
73 activities that could help MSMEs adapt to the digital economy.

5. Capacity building & policy and practices sharing

74 5.1 Encourage members to carry out digital economy capacity
75 building initiatives aimed at effectively addressing the digital divides
76 by closing the gaps in access to digital infrastructure and digital
77 technologies, digital services and digital skill development, in
78 coordination with the Working Group on ICT Cooperation, the
79 Digital BRICS Task Force (DBTF) and BRICS Institute for Future
80 Networks as practical.

81 5.2 Support development of common understanding and cooperation
82 on matters with significant impacts on the digital economy,
83 including but not limited to national regulatory and legislative
84 frameworks on issues related to anti-competitive practices,
85 intellectual property rights protection, etc., and emerging
86 technologies including artificial intelligence.

87 5.3 Promote cooperation and exchange of information on policies,
88 legislative and regulatory frameworks related to digital data that

89 cover, amongst others, privacy and security while considering how
90 nationally generated data benefits national economies.

6. Way forward

91 6.1 BRICS members will undertake activities under this framework
92 through the Contact Group on Economic and Trade issues (CGETI).
93 With the aim of providing institutional support to the CGETI
94 discussion and cooperation on the digital economy, the Digital
95 Economy Working Group will be established by upgrading the
96 E-commerce Working Group. The Digital Economy Working Group
97 will coordinate and interact with the Digital BRICS Task Force
98 (DBTF) avoiding any duplication of initiatives, to advance the
99 BRICS digital economy in accordance with respective advantages.

100 6.2 BRICS members may formulate action plans to implement this
101 framework based on consensus. The Rotating Presidency of the BRICS
102 plays a leading role in developing relevant cooperation initiatives.

103 6.3 BRICS members welcome the supports that are already provided
104 by UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC and other relevant international
105 organizations. On the basis of BRICS consultation, the rotating
106 Presidency will seek policy and technical support from IOs on the
107 work of the BRICS digital economy cooperation.