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

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

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

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

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

1. Trade facilitation

1.1 Subject to domestic laws and regulations and taking into account
capacity constraints, encourage the use of digital means to promote trade facilitation, such as paperless customs clearance, use of electronic documents, mutual recognition of digital authentications, and use of electronic payment.

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

2. Investment cooperation

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

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

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

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

3. Consumer protection

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

3.2 Strengthen dialogues on dispute resolution in e-commerce, ensuring both cost and time effective options for consumers and businesses that are adapted to the characteristics of e-commerce
within the national framework of laws and regulations.

4. MSMEs cooperation

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

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

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

5. Capacity building & policy and practices sharing

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

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

5.3 Promote cooperation and exchange of information on policies, legislative and regulatory frameworks related to digital data that
cover, amongst others, privacy and security while considering how
nationally generated data benefits national economies.

6. Way forward

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

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

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