

BRICS Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on Supply Chains

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4 Recalling that the BRICS countries have committed in the *Strategy*
5 *for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025* to enhancing supply chain
6 connectivity through identifying bottlenecks in regional supply
7 chains so as to ensure more efficient operation of supply chains;

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9 Reiterating that maintaining the openness, efficiency, stability and
10 resilience of the global and regional supply chains is crucial in
11 combating the COVID-19 pandemic and boosting international trade
12 and investment;

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13 Stressing that emerging market economies and developing countries
14 as well as their MSMEs are among the most vulnerable to supply
15 chain shocks;

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16 Recognizing that the travel and logistics restrictions related to the
17 pandemic, coupled with protectionist and unilateral measures,
18 particularly WTO-inconsistent ones that undermine the multilateral
19 trading system, have severely impacted supply chains both at
20 regional and global levels;

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21 Bearing in mind that trade in services is a key engine for the
22 post-pandemic recovery of international trade, as well as an
23 important path for countries to move up to the higher value-added
24 end of supply chains;

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25 Acknowledging and respecting the differences among the BRICS
26 countries in development stages and strategies, as well as
27 circumstances and priorities;

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28 Recognizing the importance of upgrading and diversifying national
29 and regional production for economic resilience.

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30 In light of the above, the BRICS countries agree to carry out
31 cooperation in the following areas:

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1. Support inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system and

32 encourage WTO members to refrain from taking protectionist and
33 unilateral measures. Endeavour to roll back trade-restrictive
34 measures related to the pandemic and prevent the application of
35 unnecessary barriers to trade in essential products and medical
36 supplies. Strengthen BRICS cooperation in the international trade
37 negotiations and discussions, as appropriate.

38 2. Call on all WTO members to ensure that all COVID-19 trade
39 related measures are targeted, proportionate, transparent and
40 temporary, and avoid creating unnecessary barriers to trade or
41 disrupting global supply chains.

42 3. Strengthen investment cooperation that is conducive to supply
43 chain stability, diversification and resilience, including developing
44 economic, trade and supply chain cooperation.

45 4. Strengthen information sharing by exchanges and dialogues on the
46 COVID-19 vaccine and conduct pragmatic cooperation. Jointly
47 support the WTO to reach a decision on the scope of flexibilities
48 contained in the TRIPS Waiver Proposal with the aim of bridging the
49 gap of vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics for the prevention,
50 treatment and containment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

51 5. Support efforts to upgrade and diversify national and regional
52 production for resilience.

53 6. Facilitate the operation of supply chains among the BRICS
54 countries by timely implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation
55 Agreement (TFA). Strengthen exchanges and cooperation in areas
56 such as simplifying and streamlining customs procedures, improving
57 international logistics efficiency and enhancing connectivity.
58 Continue CGETI discussions on trade under-invoicing and
59 mispricing on the basis of capacity building workshop outcome
60 report of the customs officials.

61 7. Strengthen exchanges and cooperation on trade in services.
62 Facilitate trade in services in areas of interest to BRICS members

63 and to address barriers to trade in services including new barriers
64 arising in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Strengthen
65 engagement of BRICS national focal points, as established in the
66 BRICS Framework for Cooperation on Trade in Services, with the
67 BRICS Business Council, to facilitate cooperation activities among
68 the governmental entities, industry associations, businesses and
69 academia on areas such as business opportunity matchmaking,
70 capacity building, service trade statistics, professional and relevant
71 business services with the aim to promote implementation of BRICS
72 Trade in Services Cooperation Roadmap and relevant documents
73 including the BRICS Framework for cooperation in Professional
74 Services. We take note of the proposal of the Presidency to establish
75 the BRICS Trade in Services Network (BTSN) and will continue
76 discussions.

77 8. Give full consideration to the challenges faced by MSMEs, and
78 provide policy support and capacity building to facilitate value
79 addition by MSMEs and their integration into the global and
80 regional supply chains.

81 9. Continue cooperation within the Working Mechanism on
82 Technical Regulations, Standards, Metrology and Conformity
83 Assessment Procedures for Cooperation to Facilitate Trade.

84 10. Encourage sharing best practices and case studies regarding the
85 supply chains, especially the measures that can be taken to boost the
86 production and trade of essential goods and services.

87 11. Explore sharing information on shipping among BRICS
88 countries on a voluntary basis to improve shipping efficiency and
89 reduce logistics costs while complying respective domestic laws and
90 regulations and protecting commercial information confidentiality.
91 Explore possibilities of cooperation on improving the development
92 and operational efficiency of ports and other logistics infrastructures
93 on a voluntary basis.

94 12. Continue to explore and enrich cooperation by jointly identifying
95 other fields and initiatives for cooperation. Encourage cooperation
96 among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply
97 chains and promote trade and investment flows.