



BRICS COOPERATION FRAMEWORK ON SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZs)

1. Matter of cooperation

1.1. The purpose of the Cooperation Framework elaborated in development of economic cooperation pillars of BRICS is to unleash the potential of Special Economic Zones of the BRICS countries as a well-established mechanism for promotion of trade and industrial cooperation, providing enterprises with a variety of tools for ease of doing business.

1.2 The Parties of the Cooperation Framework recognize that the effectiveness of Special Economic Zones has already been proven in the BRICS countries and globally for the facilitation of manufacturing, including those but not limited to high-tech sectors of the economy, IT and IT enabled services, tourism, port and transport infrastructure, development and commercialization of technologies, as well as for the production of new types of value added products. The Parties also acknowledge that Special Economic Zones provide immense opportunities for encouraging additional investment in priority areas of economic development.

1.3 The Cooperation Framework is intended to promote capacity building and sharing of best practices of the BRICS countries in creating and managing zones with special treatment or incentives, as well as assisting business in localizing industrial production in accordance with their national laws.

1.4. In this Cooperation Framework, Special Economic Zones are understood as areas with special treatment or incentives, which may include Special Economic Zones, Free Economic Zones, Free Ports, Free Trade Zones, Industrial Zones, Industrial Parks, Technoparks. The scope and coverage of the SEZs is as per the domestic laws and regulations of the Member States.

1.5. The Parties intend to establish and develop cooperation among Special Economic Zones based on the principles of transparency, mutual benefit, mutual understanding, mutual respect and trust.

2. Key areas of cooperation

2.1. The Parties recognize the importance of developing cooperation on a consensus basis in the following areas:

- raising awareness of the contribution of Special Economic Zones to sustainable and resilient development;
- implementation of joint programs and business missions as feasible for exchange of experiences;
- exchange of approaches to implementation of standards, and methodologies for managing Special Economic Zones;
- exchange of experiences of Special Economic Zones aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals, including addressing climate change through elaboration of issues on low-carbon development and green transformation;
- search for new investment niches;
- assistance in localization of business to the facilities of Special Economic Zones of the BRICS countries;
- exchange, if applicable and feasible, of non-confidential information on the needs of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Suppliers in raw materials, components, logistics solutions, as well as proposals from the Parties;
- enhance institutional arrangements to carry out practice-oriented activities;
- other areas ensuring the fulfillment of this Cooperation Framework within the competence and in line with domestic regulations of the Parties.

3. Mechanisms of cooperation

3.1. The Parties acknowledge the importance of operationalizing cooperation through mutual expert consultations and coordination of positions, exchange of information, business missions and development of joint solutions in the areas of cooperation.

3.2. In order to enhance practical cooperation, the Parties on a consensus basis will endeavor to establish a forum for cooperation on Special Economic Zones of the BRICS countries to comprise, depending on the countries' decision, either government officials or the private sector, or any other organization authorized by the state to represent the interests of or provide public policy advice in the field of SEZs.

3.3. The Parties to the Cooperation Framework agree to nominate the focal points either from the public sector or the private sector, or any other organization authorized by the state, dealing with the matters of the Cooperation Framework as feasible within the current Chairship.

3.4. The Presiding BRICS country may endeavor to gather information on the activities carried out at both public and private levels throughout the year in line with the Cooperation Framework's provisions and may report progress on such cooperation during the BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting.