

Terms of Reference for the SMEs Working Group of BRICS Countries

I. INTRODUCTION

The BRICS Summit Declarations have consistently emphasized the necessity to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Declarations of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th BRICS Industry Ministers Meetings have reached consensus on deepening cooperation among SMEs, encouraging integrated development among large, medium, and small enterprises, and integrating micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises into global industrial chains.

In the BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Advisory Group Meeting held in June 2024, Chinese representatives presented the “Concept Note of the BRICS Working Group on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises” to representatives of BRICS member countries, proposing the initiative to establish a Working Group on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. In August, the 8th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting reviewed and adopted the Joint Declaration of the 8th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, which endorsed the decision by the PartNIR Advisory Group to create under it the Working Group on SMEs.

In October 2024, the 16th BRICS Summit held in Kazan, Russia further endorsed the establishment of the Working Group on SMEs within the framework of the PartNIR in the Kazan Declaration.

II. OBJECTIVES

The SMEs Working Group aims to strengthen the exchange and cooperation among the competent authorities responsible for SMEs in BRICS countries. It seeks to create a favorable environment for SMEs in member countries to jointly address the challenges of the New Industrial Revolution and achieve sustainable development. Furthermore, within the framework of the PartNIR, the Working Group aims to establish a long-term, mutually beneficial, stable, and regular cooperation mechanism for promoting SME development, and support the better integration of BRICS SMEs into global industrial chains, supply chains, and value chains.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

1. Implement the consensus reached at previous BRICS Summits, Industry Ministers Meetings, and other ministerial meetings regarding SME cooperation among BRICS countries.

2. Formulate and review work plans based on the terms of reference of the Working Group and carry out relevant work in accordance with these plans. Work plans should include deliverables, exchange activities, cooperation projects, and other aspects.

3. Further strengthen coordination with other working groups within the BRICS framework.

4. Expand mutually beneficial cooperation to strengthen the BRICS PartNIR.

IV. Working Mechanism

1. Each member country shall determine its participants in the SMEs Working Group and designate a focal point. The Working Group could include stakeholders such as government representatives, research institutions, and enterprises.

2. The Chair of the SMEs Working Group shall be appointed by the rotating presidency for that year and be responsible for organizing and convening meetings of the Working Group during that year. Should the rotating presidency be unable to appoint a Chair, a statement shall be issued one year prior to the start of its term, allowing other member countries to nominate an interim Chair.

3. The Working Group will exchange information on relevant progress in SME cooperation through technical seminars, joint research, experience sharing, and other forms, develop and follow up on pilot cooperation projects, and establish a regular and multi-level communication mechanism for SMEs among BRICS countries.

4. The Working Group shall report to BRICS Industry Ministers. The Working Group may revise the Terms of Reference and Work Plan documents for the SMEs Working Group as needed.

V. SOURCES OF FUNDS

1. Member countries shall provide financial and human resources support on a voluntary-basis for projects initiated by the SMEs Working Group within the framework of the Advisory Group.

2. Member countries of the Working Group are encouraged to seek support from financial institutions such as the New Development Bank established by the BRICS countries, as appropriate.