

the dtic PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR BRICS 2023

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the dtic

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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WHY THE BRICS?

The BRICS represent a long-term economic vision for middle economies

- Almost all BRICS countries share a common need to avoid the ‘middle income trap’; and the transition to sustainable industrialization and the development of high end services industries.
- This can serve as a useful blanket unifying lens through which to view core economic cooperation.
- This challenge requires a programme of cooperation to:
 - Open and maintain **new trading opportunities beyond tariff policy**
 - Active cooperation on **industrial development**, including new initiatives at the sector/industry levels
 - **Infrastructure** financing and development
 - New forms of **social support**
 - Managing **technological transitions**
 - The management of **spatial inequalities**

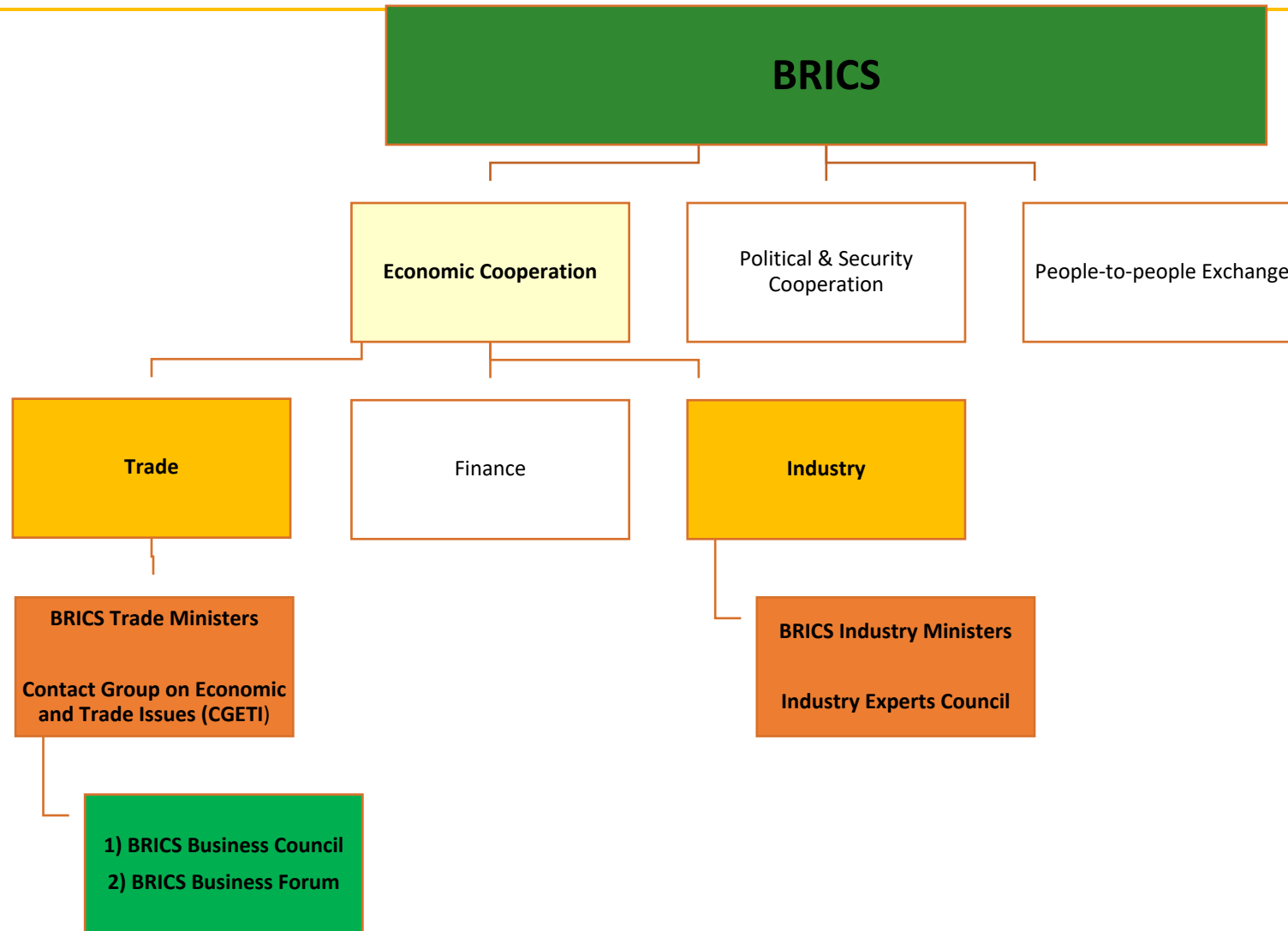
This broad basket of issues needs to feed into practical domestic initiatives and, where appropriate, coordinated lobbying at global level.

WHY THE BRICS?

A Responsive South African Strategy:

- South Africa's engagement requires a **whole-country approach**, uniting the voices of various government agencies, the private sector, and civil society.
- While coordination is key, care should be taken to recognize the **different mandates and objectives** of the various actors.
- Deeper coordination among government departments should be approached through the definition of a **handful of key common outcomes**; which exist alongside specific actor issues.
- **Implementing agencies** need to be brought more closely into engagements at international fora.
- To drive a more responsive approach to international engagements, ongoing **M&E tools** should gather issues from key constituents and then employ a 'problem-solving' approach.

BRICS ARCHITECTURE



BRICS ARCHITECTURE

- BRICS is a platform for **cooperation**.
- The focus is on pragmatic cooperation, rather than binding commitments.
- Preserving policy space for our own development remains important.

Note: BRICS is not a trade agreement; no provision to liberalize trade.

BRICS ARCHITECTURE

ECONOMIC STRUCTURES:

Trade and investment:

Technical/officials' level: Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI).

Ministerial level: BRICS Trade Ministers

Industry:

Technical/officials' level: BRICS Industrial Expert Council

Ministerial level: BRICS Industry Ministers

Summit:

Both Ministerial bodies ultimately feed into the Summit, at the level of Heads of State and Government

BRICS Business Council & Business Forum

BRICS BUSINESS COUNCIL

The BRICS Business Council was established during the Fifth BRICS Summit held on 26th - 27th March 2013 in South Africa.

The Council was created to advance the following objectives:

- ✓ To promote and strengthen business, trade and investment ties amongst the business communities of the five BRICS countries.
- ✓ To ensure that there is regular dialogue between the business communities of the BRICS nations and the Governments of the BRICS countries.
- ✓ To identify problems and bottlenecks to trade and investments and to recommend solutions accordingly.
- ✓ To identify intra-BRICS projects for investments and increased exports.

BROAD PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2023

- Promote **value-added trade** (restructure of the Trade & Industry Working Group to include business; enhance cooperation by undertaking a BRICS Joint Trade Study).
- Promote intra-BRICS **investments** (in collaboration with BBC).
- Contribute to the creation and development of **new & hi-tech industries** (through BBC, thus promote practical business-business level cooperation on e-commerce, carbon adaptation *inter alia*).
- Promote **infrastructure investment** in Africa that contributes to regional integration.
- Promote investment into SA's **SEZs** and **Masterplan Sectors**.
- **Intellectual Property** cooperation – promote exchange of views and best practices on utilization of IPR for development.
- **SME** cooperation
- Supporting the multi-lateral trading system and exchange of views on global issues with a view to enhance cooperation in multilateral fora, including development of a BRICS **narrative on inclusive multilateralism** for sustainable development.

BROAD PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2023

- **Trade in Services:**

Collaboration in collecting services trade statistics.

- **E-commerce:**

Information exchange and experience sharing w.r.t. the developmental aspects of e-commerce, especially impact on localization and SMMEs.

- **Intellectual Property Rights:**

Experience share w.r.t. IP in public health, incl. exploring approaches relevant to patent expiry and generics; and experiences in leveraging TRIPS flexibilities. Possible BRICS IPR Guidebook.

- **Technical Regulations, Standards, Metrology, Conformity Assessment And Accreditation:**

SA proposed a *Working Mechanism on Technical Regulations, Standards, Metrology, Conformity Assessment And Accreditation* - text largely agreed, Move to finalise.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism for BRICS initiatives:**

SA proposed a system to track initiatives of various presidencies over the years, which can be used by future presidencies when setting their own priorities and outcomes. Template to be developed, populated and accepted

STRATEGIC MATTERS TO BE FINALISED BY MAY 2023

- 1) Revive the Trade Promotion Working Group**
- 2) Finalise the Format and Content of BRICS Business Forum**
- 3) Finalise SA content of BRICS Business Council Report input**

1) TRADE PROMOTION WORKING GROUP

- Established during the 4th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers in Brazil in 2014.
- Trade Promotion Working Group created to intensify intra-BRICS trade.
- The purpose was to bring together the trade promotion agencies in the BRICS countries and to establish a permanent dialogue among them on areas of mutual interest.
- South Africa has taken the lead in exchanging information on trade promotion activities and initiating a Joint Trade Study towards improving value-added trade among BRICS countries.
- South Africa has therefore decided to take forward this initiative during its Chair-ship.

1) TRADE PROMOTION WORKING GROUP

SOUTH AFRICA'S PRIORITIES:

1. Improve **exporter development** and **export promotion** of high value-added products and services.
2. Ensure effective **market access** for high value-added products in BRIC markets.
3. Prioritise **Trade Facilitation** and **Customs Cooperation** within BRICS.

Member can increase their trade in high value-added products, especially their top twenty, by introducing positive trade facilitation measures to ease customs procedures and clearing.

4. BRICS Joint Trade Study

To reveal comparative advantages for future value-added exports and value-chains.

1) TRADE PROMOTION WORKING GROUP

NEXT STEPS:

- Conduct a BRICS Joint Trade Study on value-added products.
- Develop a BRICS calendar of Trade and Investment promotion events to allow for joint participation.
- Share information amongst BRICS countries on exchanges and capacity-building programmes on trade and investment promotion.
- Contribute trade and investment matters into the draft Summit Declaration.

2) BRICS BUSINESS FORUM

The BRICS Business Forum will be held during the BRICS 2023 Summit on 23 August 2023 at the Sandton Convention Centre.

The Business Council and government are joint-leads on the Forum.

NEXT STEPS:

- Finalise the Theme of the Forum.
- Finalise Structure of the Forum.
- Clear and vet any Agreements to be signed and projects to be launched / announced.

❖ The business forum will include networking sessions including Business to Business (B2B), Business to Government (B2G), and Development Finance Institutions to Government. Possible Exhibition.

2) BRICS BUSINESS COUNCIL

NEXT STEPS:

- Finalise the BRICS projects' book.
- Finalise an NTB audit.
- Identify skills for the future for strategic sectors / industries.
- Identify transformative areas for collaboration / agitation.
- Finalise business report to be presented to Heads of States.

A dramatic landscape photograph of a deep canyon. The scene is filled with rolling green hills and steep, rocky cliffs. A winding river flows through the bottom of the canyon. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect with rays of light shining through the clouds and illuminating the landscape. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the upper center of the image.

QUESTIONS?

