

CHAIR'S NOTES

FIRST GENERAL BRICS BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING 2024

OPENING REMARKS

- Mr. Sergey Katyrin: **Global Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council 2024**
- Mr. José Serrador Neto: Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council in Brazil
- Mr. Onkar S Kanwar: Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council in India
- Mr. Chen Siqing: Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council in China
- Chairpersons of the Working Groups

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On behalf on the South African BRICS Business Council, we wish Russia a successful Chairship. Russia BRICS Business Council has been a strong and committed member since the inception of BRICS Business Council, South Africa has no doubt that we will be lead with dedication and excellence throughout the 2024 BRICS Business Council Chairship.
- The South African BRICS business Council pledges its full support to Russia Chairship. We fully believe that we must continue to drive economic collaboration to enhance reciprocity and mutual assistance amongst BRICS plus markets and synergetic trade relationships based on mutual assistance.

Mr Chairperson,

- Russia's theme for 2024 is "*Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security*" The BRICS Business Council must promote multilateralism by participating in the global value chains to support fair trade businesses. This will help to drive a better cooperation amongst our countries, leading to greater stability and security.
- We also need to continuously advocate for policies in our respective governments that promote equitable development and enhance cooperation amongst our countries. The BRICS Business Council must also form partnership with like-minded organizations to address some of the economic global challenges, through leveraging their resources and expertise for greater impact to the world.

- We look forward to number of initiatives that will be presented by the Working Groups (WGs) to drive continuity and innovation within the BRICS countries. Mr Chairperson, we stand at the height of a transformed world, characterized by rapid technological advancements, evolving trade dynamics, and shifting geopolitical landscapes, the importance of BRICS trade and investment cannot be overstated. South Africa remain committed to work with all our BRICS partners to advance economic partnerships.

Thank you.

CLOSING REMARKS

- Mr. Sergey Katyrin: **Global Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council 2024**
- Mr. José Serrador Neto: Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council in Brazil
- Mr. Onkar S Kanwar: Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council in India
- Mr. Chen Siqing: Chairperson of the BRICS Business Council in China
- Chairpersons of the Working Groups

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On behalf of South Africa, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the WG's global Chairs, I wish to reiterate South Africa's support to all the agreed initiatives. South Africa strongly believes that we need to enhance and promote economic, trade, business, and investment ties among our BRICS plus countries. This will be achieved through some of the strategic initiatives presented here today, we need to continuously strive to build an inclusive and diverse environment for trade and investment to provide opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises, in our nations.

Mr Chairperson

- Last year we signed an "*Agreed Joint statement on Trade and Investment*". Mr Chairperson, the statement is a testament our commitment to reducing barriers, improving trade facilitation, and promoting investments among the BRICS nations in the ever-multipolar world.
- The agreement must remind us of our collective pledge to drive trade and investment promotion, across all sectors, to contribute towards the fair-trade balance, and



inclusive trade practices, while encouraging investment flows that benefit all our economies.

- Let us carry forward the spirit of economic collaboration and use the knowledge gained from this 1st General BRICS Business Council meeting in 2024. to shape a sustainable path for the BRICS plus countries.
- The power we hold as a collective force, must shape the future of global business, and create a more sustainable world for all its citizens. Together, we must continue to enhance and strengthen our economies, thus promoting sustainable development.

I thank you.