

## BRICS HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS MEETING OUTCOMES

Moscow, 3 September 2024

- 1. The Heads of Customs Administrations of the Federal Republic of Brazil, the People's Republic of China, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of India, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of South Africa met in Moscow, Russian Federation on 3 September 2024;
- 2. The Heads of Customs Administrations discussed the following key areas following the Customs Experts Meeting held in Moscow, Russian Federation on 2 September 2024:

The collective BRICS commitment of promoting dialogue, cooperation and coordination in a pragmatic, incremental and transparent manner;

The critical role played by Customs Administrations in supporting increased trade flows between BRICS Member States by facilitating legitimate trade and combatting illicit activities;

The cooperation between BRICS Customs Administrations in order to register measurable progress in the facilitation of trade and the disruption of illicit activities;

The Joint Action Plan between the BRICS Customs Administrations towards Mutual Recognition of their respective Authorized Economic Operator Programmes to be signed;

## 3. The Heads of Customs Administrations have come to understanding of key objectives as follows:

Strengthen BRICS customs cooperation;

Finalize the draft Agreement on Mutual Recognition of BRICS Authorized Economic Operator Programs by the end of the second quarter of 2025;

Modernize, digitalize and intellectualize BRICS customs cooperation in order to transform it into a more practice-oriented format;

Resume face-to-face BRICS customs cooperation events;

Provide comprehensive assistance to the new BRICS Member States in order to involve them in the BRICS customs cooperation processes;

Exchange information and provide mutual assistance in law enforcement activities.

## 4. The Heads of Customs Administrations also decided to focus on actions and initiatives that will enable Customs Administrations to:

Deepen law enforcement cooperation between BRICS Customs Administrations;

Foster compliance measures in import and export operations between BRICS Member States;

Promote legitimate trade among BRICS Member States and share best practices addressing the challenges that deprive respective governments of revenue;

Establish closer engagement with other BRICS structures;

Ensure data interoperability and advance data exchange between BRICS Customs Administrations to support legitimate trade through the exchange of law enforcement information. The actions in this direction will also be informed by the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards and its "Globally Networked Customs" concept;

Share best practices on modern developments and methodologies of digitalization and intellectualization of customs infrastructure;

Establish BRICS Centers of Excellence on the basis of accredited BRICS training centers, including centers for analyzing trends in global trade, smart customs cooperation, and other areas of strength;

Strengthen cooperation between BRICS training centers to develop and implement joint BRICS customs training activities focused on common areas of interest and global trends by developing and utilizing online platforms to share information; and resume face-to-face joint activities;

Strengthen continued engagement and cooperation on global customs issues with relevant international organizations such as the World Customs Organization and the World Trade Organization, including highlighting significant events and outcomes in the context of BRICS customs cooperation.

- 5. The Heads of Customs Administrations concluded the meeting expressing their collective commitment to elevating customs cooperation amongst BRICS Countries with the view of reaping benefits for respective member countries and influencing international developments and trends.
- 6. The Heads of Customs Administrations also agreed to inform the BRICS Summit of the outcome of the deliberations.

Signed in 6 copies in English in Moscow, Russian Federation on 3 September 2024.

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