

MEDIA STATEMENT
ISSUED BY THE BRICS BUSINESS COUNCIL
10 FEBRUARY 2015, BRASILIA, BRAZIL

The Midterm Meeting of the BRICS Business Council took place on 9-10 February 2015, in Brasília, Brazil.

The BRICS Business Council was established on 2013 during the Fifth BRICS Summit which was held in Durban, South Africa, as a platform to strengthen and promote economic, trade, business and investment ties amongst the Business communities of the BRICS countries and to ensure that there is regular dialogue between the business communities and the Governments of the BRICS countries.

During the Sixth BRICS Summit which was held in Fortaleza, Brazil, on 2014, the BRICS Business Council adopted its First Annual Report and submitted it to the BRICS Governments.

Since then the BRICS Business Council has been working to implement the initiatives adopted in Fortaleza and monitoring the developments of the measures recommended to the BRICS Governments.

The Midterm Meeting was chaired by Mr. José Rubens de la Rosa, Chairman of the Brazil and BRICS Business Council and attended by Mr. Sergey Katyrin, Chairman of Russia BRICS Business Council, Mr. Tulsi Tanti, Interim Chairman of India BRICS Business Council, Mr. Ma Zehua, Chairman of China BRICS Business Council, and Mr. Brian Molefe, Chairman of South Africa BRICS Business Council.

The BRICS Business Council counted with the relevant presence of the Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Mr. Armando Monteiro, and the President of the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, Mr. Robson Braga de Andrade. Their participation demonstrates that the BRICS Business Council has been an active and relevant interlocutor of the business communities to the Governments of the BRICS countries.

During the Midterm Meeting, the Working Groups on Energy and Green Economy, Manufacturing, Skills Development, Financial Services and Infrastructure reported their advancements and proposals to the BRICS Business Council.

The BRICS Business Council considered the reports of the Working Groups and worked on the elaboration of its Second Annual Report, which was conceived having in mind priorities to be reached in order to ensure greater economic, trade and investment ties amongst the BRICS countries.

The BRICS Business Council made great advances on proposals related to favorable business environment, trade in local currencies, business travel, trade facilitation, logistic and connectivity, technical standards, investment ties and the

New Development Bank, and also approved the Energy and Green Economy Working Group proposal of creating a new working group on agribusiness.

In the Seventh BRICS Summit which will take place in Ufa, Russia, on July 2015, the BRICS Business Council will adopt its Second Annual Report (2014-2015) and submit it to the BRICS Governments. Therefore, the advancements made by the Council during the Midterm Meeting were crucial for the accomplishment of its mission.

The BRICS Business Council also commemorated that the BRICS Business Platform (www.brics-info.org) has been reaching its objectives of information exchanging related to the BRICS economies, and reaffirmed its commitment to stimulating the exchange of trade, business and investment information.

The Midterm Meeting was followed by three roundtables with representatives of the Brazilian government that shared their perspectives on issues of interesting of the BRICS business communities.

Representatives of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, the Federal Revenue of Brazil, the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Apex-Brasil discoursed about Trade Facilitation, Business Travel and Investment.

The Trade in Local Currencies and the New Development Bank roundtable counted on the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES).

Representatives of the Brazilian Logistic & Planning Company, Inmetro and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply attended to the roundtable on Logistics, Connectivity and Technical, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards.

The Russian, Indian, Chinese and South African BRICS Business Council Chapters extend their warm appreciation and gratitude to the Brazilian Section of the BRICS Business Council, supported by the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, for hosting the Midterm BRICS Business Council meeting.

Statement issued by the BRICS Business Council

10th February 2015

Brasília, Brazil