

Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group for the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution

I. Introduction

The 10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 2018, decided to commence the full operationalisation of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) and to set up an Advisory Group comprising of respective representatives of BRICS Ministries of Industry and related Ministries. The PartNIR Advisory Group is tasked to deepen BRICS cooperation in digitalization, industrialization, innovation, inclusiveness and investment, and work together to accelerate the shift from old economic driving forces to new ones and promote economic transformation and upgrade. In accordance with the important consensus reached by Leaders of BRICS countries, the Advisory Group is intended to practically foster implementation of the PartNIR.

Currently, profound changes are taking place in the international economic environment, particularly in the industrial sector. The BRICS countries are witnessing an important stage of development with many opportunities and challenges. In the face of a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, BRICS countries should seize development opportunities and responsibly meet risks and challenges together, to achieve digital, innovative and inclusive growth and shared prosperity, to contribute to the relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through win-win cooperation with one of the important means being by establishing the PartNIR.

As an immediate follow-up to the leaders' instruction the first PartNIR

Advisory Group Meeting took place in December 2018, at Johannesburg, South Africa, when the first draft proposals of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan for PartNIR were initially reviewed. It was agreed that the discussions would be continued among BRICS countries at the Second PartNIR Advisory Group Meeting to finalize the Terms of Reference and Work Plan.

II. Organizational Structure

i. Chair: Director-General level official of the BRICS Chair will be the Chair of the Advisory Group and is responsible for leading PartNIR activities, including convening meetings and organizing and coordinating related matters. Director-General level official from the next BRICS presidency will be the Vice Chair.

ii. Members: Members of the Advisory Group consist of officials of BRICS Ministries of Industry, in consultation with other appropriate Ministries and relevant stakeholders.

iii. Observers: Upon agreement, observers may be invited to the Advisory Group Meetings as appropriate.

iv. Working Group: Advisory Group may set up Working Group(s) to fulfill the tasks of PartNIR .

v. Secretariat: The presiding BRICS Country should set up the Secretariat for the Advisory Group to provide necessary support for the Chair of the Advisory Group. The Secretariat will be responsible for daily communication and correspondence with member countries, organization of related meetings of PartNIR and coordination of the delivery of PartNIR. The Secretariat will be supported by the Focal Point(s), who is/are nodal

officer(s) from the relevant Ministry or Government departments of each BRICS country and is/are in charge of daily communication and coordination with the Secretariat.

III. Scope of Work

i. Develop a Work Plan (including cooperation areas, priorities and projects) for the PartNIR in line with the objectives of digitalization, industrialization, innovation, inclusiveness and investment. Encourage members to take initiative to facilitate the implementation of the Work Plan.

ii. Strengthen international cooperation and coordination in the areas of policy and other issues of common interest; sharing of best practices on the 4th Industrial Revolution.

iii. Evaluate the implementation of the Work Plan and formulate an annual work report accordingly.

iv. Set up Working Group(s) and determine its Chair(s), mandate(s) and scope(s).

v. Review and revise the Terms of Reference and Work Plan of the PartNIR upon agreement among BRICS countries.

vi. Encourage BRICS members to contribute financially to BRICS projects and to explore financial support from various sources including private sectors, the BRICS New Development Bank and other financial institutions.

III. Advisory Group Meetings

The Advisory Group may convene meetings that can be held on the margins of the BRICS Industry Ministers Meetings or other related Ministerial Meetings, to review the work progress of previous year, discuss the work plan for the next year and other issues. Subject to the agreement of the BRICS PartNIR members, video conference meetings could be held as well.

The BRICS presiding country shall convene and chair the meetings of the BRICS PartNIR Advisory Group, which should meet at least annually.

IV. Reporting Mechanism

The Chair of the BRICS PartNIR Advisory Group will submit its annual report to the BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting for further action.
