Terms of Reference of the Digital Transformation of Industry Working Group of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution

I. Introduction

Digital industry transformation, encompassing technologies such as AI, IoT, cloud computing, and big data analytics, represents a crucial field in the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. These technologies are indispensable elements in enhancing productivity, efficiency, and innovation across industries worldwide. As an important force in promoting global industrial innovation, the BRICS countries play a key role in advancing development of digital industries, which is of great significance for accelerating the global industrialization process and fostering inclusive growth.

The 10th BRICS Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2018, established the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR), which aims at deepening BRICS cooperation in the areas of digitalization, industrialization, innovation, inclusiveness, and investment.

The BRICS Industry Ministers' Meetings in 2021, 2022, and 2023 emphasized that digital transformation, as a key to seizing the strategic opportunities brought about by the New Industrial Revolution. It is necessary for BRICS countries to explore opportunities to enhance capacities building in digitization, networking, improve competency for industrial production and manufacturing, and speed up the processes of industrialization and modernization.

The 8th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting, held in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, in August 2024, has endorsed the establishment of the Working Group on Digital Transformation of Industry within the framework of the PartNIR Advisory Group, to promote continued dialogue, coordination and cooperation in the fields of industry digitalization among BRICS countries.

II. Objectives

The Working Group, aiming to serve as a regular exchange mechanism in the field of digital industry transformation among BRICS countries, seeks to implement the consensus reached at previous BRICS Summits and Meetings of Industry Ministers on cooperation in digitalization and industrial innovation. It focuses on key issues and technical aspects of digital industry transformation that are of interest to BRICS countries, and works to enhance dialogue and collaboration in technology, standards, industry, and applications between BRICS industrial authorities, industry associations, research institutions, and enterprises. The

goal is to jointly advance the digital industry transformation capabilities in BRICS countries, fostering sustainable and inclusive industrial development.

III. Scope of Work

All parties will focus on, but not be limited to, the following areas for mutually beneficial cooperation:

1. Technical Exchange

Explore cooperation in conducting knowledge sharing and capacity building activities on key digital technologies for industrial applications, such as AI, IoT, cloud computing, and big data analytics.

2. Industrial Matchmaking

Explore cooperation opportunities in areas such as industrial internet, open source, resilient and trusted supply chains, explore partnerships between BRICS companies to develop and implement digital industry transformation solutions.

3. Collaboration on Standardization

Encourage relevant government departments, standards organizations, research institutions, enterprises, and industry associations in BRICS member countries to explore cooperation in setting standards for industry digitalization.

4. Participation in PartNIR Events and Initiatives

Encourage public, private and international organizations and institutions in the fields of industry digitalization to participate in PartNIR series of events and initiatives such as the BRICS Forum on the Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution, the BRICS Industrial Innovation Contest, the BRICS New Industrial Revolution Exhibition, the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competences and other events and initiatives. Collaborate with the Digital BRICS Task Force (DBTF) under the ICT and Digital Economy Working Group created under the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) when applicable.

5. Cooperation for Capacity-building

Encourage BRICS member countries to carry out skills upgrading training and retraining programs in areas related to digital industrialization. Encourage BRICS member countries and partner countries to organize and participate in online and offline training programs in relevant fields.

IV. Work Mechanism

The Working Group shall appoint a Chair. The Chair of the Working Group shall be assumed by representative of the BRICS rotating presidency. Each BRICS member state shall designate a few experts for exchanging the knowledge on the digital transformation work in their countries from Government, Industry, and Academia. The relevant Cross-sectoral BRICS members may also be invited to the Working Group discussion.

Through technical seminars, and experience sharing, the Working Group will facilitate the exchange of progress in technology, standards, industry, applications, and other areas related to digital transformation of industry, and create a regular, communication platform in the fields of digital transformation of industry among BRICS countries.

The Working Group shall submit the annual summary report of its work to the PartNIR Advisory Group, which shall report on the work progress to the Meeting of Industry Ministers. The Working Group may revise the terms of reference and work plans as needed.

V. Funding Sources

Each member country may explore the possibility to provide financial and human resources support on a voluntary basis for the responsible projects, as approved by the PartNIR AG, under the Digital Transformation of Industry Working Group. Members are encouraged to explore the possibility to seek financial support from the BRICS New Development Bank and other institutions on a need basis.