



BRICS Meeting of Customs Experts

16 March 2021

India hosted a virtual meeting of BRICS Customs Experts on 16 March 2021, which was attended by Customs Experts of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.

During his inaugural address, Sh. Sandeep M. Bhatnagar, Member (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) highlighted the importance of Customs Cooperation among BRICS members on issues such as automated data exchange, capacity building and enforcement. He expressed hope that the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance (CMAA) in Customs Matters would also be finalized.

The Customs Experts made substantial progress in finalizing the text of BRICS CMAA. They also agreed to enhance cooperation by sharing best practices in capacity building. CBIC offered to set up a library on customs matters at its training facility at Bengaluru which was well appreciated. The Customs Experts also agreed on a timetable of other activities including joint enforcement in regard to specified prohibited goods.

The BRICS members appreciated the proposals and activities planned by India and assured their support for enhancing Customs Cooperation.