



## **BRICS Heads of Customs Administrations Meeting**

**08 July 2021**

Mr. M. Ajit Kumar, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance hosted the BRICS Heads of Customs Administrations Meeting on 8 July 2021 virtually. India is the current Chair of the BRICS forum.

The Heads of Customs Administrations of BRICS made significant progress in finalising the BRICS Agreement for Cooperation on Mutual Administrative Assistance (CMAA) in Customs matters. This Agreement would pave the way for enhanced cooperation in Customs matters amongst the BRICS countries. The CMAA is a key deliverable for the BRICS Summit planned later this year.

The meeting also laid out the framework of other BRICS Customs to Customs engagements for 2021 such as a virtual workshop for the Customs officials to sharing knowledge and enhance capacity building. CBIC sought the commitment of the BRICS members to initiate the exchange of pre-arrival Customs data on real time basis which will facilitate genuine trade and curb trade mis-declaration. This proposal received support.

The Heads of Customs Administrations of BRICS agreed that their aims and objectives were broadly mutually aligned and decided to continue to engage in a spirit of cooperation to finalise the key deliverables. A special mention was made of the critical role of the Customs in safeguarding the supply chains amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Delegates from Federal Revenue of Brazil, Federal Customs Service of Russian Federation, General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and South African Revenue Service attended the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*