

United States – India Trade Policy Forum
Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment

I. Shared Vision

The United States – India Strategic Dialogue (“the Strategic Dialogue”) announced in July 2009 reaffirms our strategic partnership and reflects our common belief that democracy, political and economic freedom, the rule of law, and security serve as the foundation of economic opportunity. The United States – India Trade Policy Forum (“the Trade Policy Forum”) is a key element of the Strategic Dialogue, serving to advance our two countries’ efforts to expand our economic ties.

The United States and India recognize that each benefits from the other’s success in expanding economic opportunity, creating jobs, reducing poverty, and enhancing the well-being of its citizens. Bilateral trade between the United States and India has doubled and commercial ties between U.S. and Indian companies have grown significantly since the Trade Policy Forum’s inception in 2005. Yet, there is tremendous potential for even greater trade and investment between our countries and engagement through the Trade Policy Forum should help realize that potential.

The United States and India share a vision of providing an environment, with the global rules-based trading system as its foundation that supports expanding trade and investment and strengthening commercial ties between U.S. and Indian businesses.

II. Purpose

- A. The United States and India seek to build on the success of the Trade Policy Forum and work through it to achieve the following objectives:
1. Facilitating trade and investment flows between the United States and India;
 2. Developing and implementing trade policies through transparent procedures that comply with international obligations;
 3. Fostering an environment conducive to technological collaboration and innovation; and
 4. Promoting inclusive economic growth and job creation in the United States and India.

III. Structure

- A. The United States and India confirm that the Trade Policy Forum continues to serve as the primary bilateral mechanism to pursue their shared trade and investment objectives. The Minister of Commerce and Industry for India and the United States Trade Representative for the United States are the co-chairs of the Trade Policy Forum.

- B. The United States and India confirm that the Secretary of Commerce for India and the Deputy United States Trade Representative for the United States are to continue to serve as the deputy chairs overseeing the work of the Trade Policy Forum's Focus Groups: Agriculture, Innovation and Creativity, Investment, Services, and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.
- C. The chairs will convene the Trade Policy Forum each year for a review of the work undertaken by the Focus Groups and for other purposes as may be agreed. The deputy chairs will meet at least twice each year to review the work of the Focus Groups, identify possible new initiatives, address problems that may arise, and prepare for the annual Trade Policy Forum meeting. Each Focus Group will consult as often as necessary, but no less than twice per year, to advance their work. Meetings and consultations of the deputy chairs and of each Focus Group may take place in person, by digital video conference (DVC), or by any other means as the participants may agree.
- D. The chairs of the Trade Policy Forum may make mutually agreed adjustments to 1) the structure and frequency of Trade Policy Forum meetings, 2) the Focus Groups, including creating or eliminating groups, and 3) the work plan, to ensure that the Trade Policy Forum remains an effective mechanism to advance United States – India cooperation.

IV. Work Plan

- A. The United States and India will continue to use the Focus Groups to engage on trade policy matters that support the objectives of the Trade Policy Forum. Each Focus Group will strive to overcome impediments to bilateral trade and investment between the United States and India, and will continue dialogue on issues of particular relevance to that Group, including the following:
 - 1. Agriculture Focus Group: Adopting and applying transparent, WTO-consistent policies governing trade in agricultural products, including science-based, sanitary and phytosanitary policies, and other issues
 - 2. Innovation and Creativity Focus Group: Improving intellectual property rights protection and enforcement, enhancing awareness of intellectual property rights, fostering innovation and creativity, and increasing collaboration between U.S. and Indian innovators;
 - 3. Investment Focus Group: Providing an open and predictable climate for bilateral investment and increasing opportunities for private investment across economic sectors, including in projects to support the Government of India's infrastructure goals;
 - 4. Services Focus Group: Promoting areas of cooperation that enable services trade, including bilateral cooperation, trade and investment in the information and communications technology, education, environmental and energy services and healthcare sectors; and

5. Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers Focus Group: Promoting policies to expand market access, including adopting transparent, WTO-consistent policies governing tariffs, standards, customs valuation, licensing and other non-tariff regulations.
- B. Through the Trade Policy Forum, using Focus Groups or other means as mutually agreed by the chairs, the United States and India also will work to achieve the following:
1. Increasing opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises in India and the United States to expand ties, enhance participation in global value-chains, and export to and invest in each other's economies;
 2. Promoting inclusive economic growth, the empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups, and the observance of labor rights;
 3. Encouraging bilateral trade and investment and creating opportunities for private sector cooperation in the development and deployment of clean energy and environmental technologies and services; including through the exchange of information and technology;
 4. Improving understanding on respective approaches to government procurement;
 5. Engaging and consulting with their respective private sectors on a regular basis on the Trade Policy Forum's work, including on efforts to accomplish the objectives set forth by the United States – India Private Sector Advisory Group and CEO Forum; and
 6. Accomplishing their common goal of attaining a balanced and ambitious outcome in the Doha Development Agenda.

SIGNED at Washington, D.C., this 17th day of March 2010.

~~FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE~~ FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:




