



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



G20 Series #38

India's G20 Presidency

1st Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) Meeting

(Mumbai – March 28 – 30, 2023)

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

May 02, 2023

“India is the world's most open and investment friendly economy due to political stability, predictable policy and business friendly reforms.”

[-Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The 1st Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in Mumbai, from March 28-30, 2023. During the three-day meeting, over 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organizations engaged in deliberations to accelerate global trade and investments

Day 1: March 28, 2023

The first day of the TIWG meeting commenced with an international conference on cooperation on trade finance among the G20 member countries. It was organised by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

An event was also hosted by the Department of Commerce and organised by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) Limited and India EXIM Bank on the sidelines of the 1st G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) Meeting in Mumbai. Delegates from the member countries, industry and academic experts from across the world were present at the



conference to engage in constructive dialogue and exchange of ideas in the domain of trade finance.

Commerce Secretary, Shri Sunil Barthwal, in his keynote address, set the agenda for the meeting. He highlighted that it is the right time to discuss the issues facing trade finance and their possible solutions.

Two sessions were organised as part of the International Conference.

Session1: The role of banks, financial institutions, development finance institutions and export credit agencies in closing the trade finance gap

The first session took a macro view of the current trends in international trade and trade finance, and their future prospects. Some key points of the discussion were:

1. Current trends in international trade and trade finance amidst the pandemic and growing import bills in developing countries.
2. Cause of trade finance gaps, including reduced credit line support in the private sector and inflation cuts into bank lending limits.
3. The role of export credit agencies in bolstering trade finance

Session 2: Accelerating digitalisation and fintech solutions can improve access to trade finance

During this session, trends in the digitalisation of trade finance were discussed in detail, and how these can accelerate innovation and efficiency to make trade finance accessible for firms, especially MSMEs. The discussion also looked upon current and emerging fintech solutions that can assist in making customized lending decisions as well as enhance trade finance supply for MSMEs. Some of the specific discussions would include:

1. Need for digitalising trade finance by working with multiple stakeholders to innovate advanced technologies for revamping the trade ecosystem in its entirety.
2. Scope of digitalisation of MSMEs to reduce the implementation time and cost, and promote innovation in the supply of finance for low-value or single transactions since major bottlenecks arise due to high-cost services and the cost of cyber security risk mitigation strategies.
3. Emerging solutions in financial technologies, such as network data, real-time payment behaviours, SaaS-based technologies and optical character recognition.

After the seminar, the delegates went for an excursion to Bharat Diamond Bourse. The Indian diamond industry hosted the Delegates of the G20 Trade & Investment Working Group (TIWG) at the Bharat Diamond Bourse (BDB). The Bharat Diamond Bourse is the largest diamond bourse in the world that houses more than 2500 offices, spread over an area of 20 Acres / 0.87 Million sq. ft. land in the heart of Mumbai. The delegates were given a tour of the world-class facilities within Bharat Diamond Bourse premises.

The Indian diamond industry is the world leader in cut & polished diamonds, exporting diamonds worth USD 23 billion annually. 14 out of 15 diamonds set in jewellery worldwide are processed in India and it exports diamond and diamond studded jewellery globally, including the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and more.



During their visit, the delegates were informed about the significant contribution made by the diamond industry towards the country's economy and employment generation. The briefing highlighted the various opportunities that the industry presents, not just within India but also globally. The Indian diamond industry is renowned for its skilled craftsmanship, cutting-edge technology, and strong ecosystem, making it a key player in the global diamond industry. Through this visit, the G20 TIWG had the chance to witness first-hand the diamond industry's potential and the role it plays in the global economy.

Offices Visited by the G20 Delegation are as follows:

1. The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC):
2. Mumbai Diamond Merchant Association:
3. India Diamond Trading Centre (IDTC):
4. Gemmological Institute of India:
5. Precious Cargo Customs Clearance Centre (Indian Customs):
6. Security Command & Control Centre (SC3)

Day 2: March 29, 2023

On the second day, the 1st Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad. Around 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organizations participated in the G20 TIWG inaugural event.

The priorities related to global trade and investment, which the Indian Presidency is pursuing, were discussed on the second day of the TIWG meeting across four technical closed-door sessions.

The deliberations focused on making trade work for growth and prosperity and building resilient Global Value Chains (GVCs). The emphasis was on achieving shared outcomes for making growth inclusive and resilient, increasing the participation of developing countries and the Global South in GVCs, and building resilient GVCs to withstand future shocks.



Day 3: March 30, 2023

The 1st G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting concluded on March 30, 2023 in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal.

The TIWG priorities on integrating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in global trade, and building efficient logistics for trade were discussed in the two working sessions on the last day.

In his press interaction, Shri Goyal highlighted the theme of India's G20 Presidency which aims to promote universal values and adoption of a human-centric approach. While reminiscing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for India's G20 agenda of inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented economic growth, he further stated that India chose to take up G20 Presidency during a tough geopolitical and globally critical economic environment. Since 2023 marks the 75th year of India's independence, this is an opportune time for the country to share its ancient wisdom with the world to find a middle path. This ancient wisdom can be integrated with advanced technology for building 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

In the sessions, several member countries affirmed the need for diversification of existing value chains and accelerating the participation of firms from developing countries and LDCs for holistic economic growth. The need for making information and finances easily accessible for MSMEs was discussed in detail during the working sessions. In addition, several

countries expressed that the digital entry barriers for MSMEs should be seriously reviewed for their efficient integration with digital trade platforms.

In the session “Building efficient logistics for trade”, delegates discussed the effective ways of developing robust logistics infrastructure that can help reduce transaction costs across borders and in the hinterlands.



Delegates witnessing the magic of Maharashtra

1. The [cultural performances](#) organised for delegates highlighted the rich heritage and history of India.
2. A cultural program was organized for the G20 delegates at Taj Palace, also the venue for the Gala dinner hosted by India.
3. Theme-based experience zones on spices, millet, tea and coffee were set up and an exhibition on textiles was also on display for the delegates to get a glimpse of India’s textile heritage.

References:

[1st G20 Trade and Investment Working Group \(TIWG\) Meeting in Mumbai, March 28th – 30th, 2023](#)

[International Conference on G20 Trade Finance Cooperation during the 1st Trade and Investment Working Group \(TIWG\) Meeting, scheduled in Mumbai on March 28th, 2023](#)

[G20 Trade & Investment Working Group Visits the Bharat Diamond Bourse, the Diamond Centre of the World](#)

[G20 Meeting in Mumbai deliberates on Trade Finance Cooperation among G20 Member Countries](#)

[MoS \(Finance\) Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad inaugurates the first G-20 Trade and Investment Working Group \(TIWG\) Meeting in Mumbai](#)

[Government is focussed on creation of robust financial network and an ecosystem- based approach for growth : MoS \(Finance\) Dr. Bhagwat Karad at G-20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting in Mumbai](#)

[The first Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting concludes in Mumbai](#)

Twitter Links:

[Maharashtra takes the global stage!](#)

[G20 Delegates witnessed the magic of Maharashtra post the in-depth deliberations](#)

Video link:

[MEDIA BRIEFING On 1st Trade & Investment Working Group Meeting](#)

NR/HP/RK/KG