Amongst others, the BRICS Business Forum further cited the potential for growing trade and investment, as well as intra-African trade and investment, must be further maximised. South Africa will utilise its chairpersonship of BRICS in 2013 to vigorously pursue support for these goals.

The BRICS Business Forum's joint statement called on the respective governments to deepen economic engagement of South Africa's national agenda is aimed at achieving inclusive economic growth for its people as well as the people of the continent. This objective is strongly complemented by the exponential and accelerator growth potential which BRICS engagement has delivered to the country and its neighbours. The potential for growing trade and investment, as well as intra-African trade and investment, must be further maximised. South Africa will utilise its chairpersonship of BRICS in 2013 to vigorously pursue support for these goals.

The regulation of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange was ranked number one in the world, as was the strength of South Africa's auditing and reporting standards. Additionally, South Africa is ranked second for both the soundness of banks and the efficacy of corporate boards. South Africa's membership of this body has expanded BRICS' geographic and intercontinental reach, including its global representation and inclusiveness.

The demand from BRICS countries for key commodities has been a critical source to support growth on the continent, notably during the recent financial crisis. South Africa's financial market development and sophistication, as well as its exceptionally sophisticated professional services and financial expertise, are globally recognised. The World Economic Forum's 2011/12 Global Competitiveness Index displayed a high level of confidence in South Africa's financial market development, ranking the country in fourth place globally on this measure. The regulation of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange was ranked number one in the world, as was the strength of South Africa's auditing and reporting standards. Additionally, South Africa is ranked second for both the soundness of banks and the efficacy of corporate boards.

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The BRICS Trade Exchange aims to leverage South Africa's membership of BRICS to achieve the following objectives:

- To promote trade and investment between South Africa and the BRICS nations
- To enhance industrialisation through developing key industries and sectors
- To promote job creation through supporting sustainable opportunities and developing commercial potential
- To develop South Africa's role as a platform for partnership and investment across the continent
- To drive cooperation on economic opportunities in infrastructure development
- To enhance cooperation on skills development
- To identify projects to be financed by the new development bank

The BRICS Trade Exchange will allow you to:

- Interface and network with relevant industry, local and international leaders
- Meet high calibre quality visitors and develop lucrative business connections
- Engage with the most influential decision-makers and senior executives in the trade and investment industry sectors within the BRICS countries
- Gain an early foothold in a market that is forging ahead while more traditional markets are struggling in the face of recessionary pressures
- Learn from high-level speakers who will be disseminating valuable, leading edge information in the Workshops/ Seminars that will run simultaneously with the exhibition

South Africa joined BRICS with three objectives in mind:

- to advance its national interests as outlined in the President’s State of the Nation Address
- to promote its regional integration programme and related continental infrastructure programmes
- to partner with key players of the South on issues related to global governance and its reform.

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In 2011, bilateral trade between South Africa and China grew by 32%, with India by 25% and with Brazil by 20%. In 2011, bilateral trade between South Africa and Russia also recovered, after a decline of 44% in 2010, but is still below the R4.2 billion in bilateral trade recorded in 2008 between these two countries.

Bilateral trade with China last year totalled R188 billion, with India R55 billion, with Brazil R18 billion and with Russia R3.8 billion. Among BRICS members, South African exports to China grew the most, at 46%, while exports to India grew by 20%, to Brazil by 14% and by 7% to Russia.

The BRICS Business Forum’s joint statement called on the respective governments to deepen economic engagement of which trade and investment were identified as the pillars of such an engagement. The target for intra-BRICS trade was set to grow from the present level of US$230 billion to at least US$500 billion by 2015.

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