



REPORT OF THE EIGHTH (VIII) JOINT TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSION (JTIC)

MEETING BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND CHILE

CONVENED IN

PRETORIA - SOUTH AFRICA

ON

28 FEBRUARY 2025

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding to Establish the Joint Trade and Investment Commission between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Chile and signed on 16 July 2012 the Eighth Meeting of the Joint Trade and Investment Commission (JTIC) between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Chile was held in Pretoria on 28 February 2025. The JTIC was preceded by a virtual senior officials meeting on 26 February 2025.
2. The JTIC was jointly led by Mr. Zuko Godlimpi, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition of the Republic of South Africa and Ms. Claudia Sanhueza Riveros, Vice Minister of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile.
3. The members of the two Delegations are listed in Annex I, respectively. Both sides adopted the Eighth Meeting JTIC Agenda, which appears as Annex II.
4. The JTIC was followed by the South Africa – Chile Business Dialogue, which was co-organized by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, Vice Ministry of International Economic Affairs, SA Embassy in Chile and the Embassy of Chile in Pretoria on 28 February 2025, represented an essential and practical addition to the JTIC. The event facilitated the establishment of new contacts and deepened already existing relations between companies and governments of South Africa and Chile.
5. The deliberations of the JTIC took place in a cordial atmosphere and were marked with the mutual desire to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries, as well as cooperation in areas such as trade and investment promotion;

Decarbonization and Critical mineral cooperation, Value Chains and SMEs and Women-led Enterprises.

6. Both sides noted the importance of each other's economies in their respective regions and the importance of their bilateral trade and investment relations.
7. Both sides acknowledged that while the bilateral trade and investment relations have been steadily growing, levels of trade and investment flows remains relatively low, which requires that both countries intensify trade and investment promotion activities, as there is still a lot of potential for increased flows on both sides.
8. Furthermore, both sides noted the importance of continuing deepening bilateral relations, considering Chile as a gateway for South Africa in Latin America, and South Africa as a gateway for Chile into the African continent.

I. Review of commitments made in the previous JTIC sessions:

9. Both sides noted progress made since the VII JTIC meeting.
10. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on "Cooperation in the Areas of Fisheries and Aquaculture" signed on the 4th day of November 2024 is currently being implemented.
11. South African and Chilean companies continue to participate in trade exhibitions in the respective markets. Furthermore, there are future planned trade missions by both countries.
12. JTIC midterm meeting could not take place and both sides undertake to host the meeting virtually by June 2025 at Senior Officials level to review the progress on the implementation of the decisions made at this 8TH JTIC meeting.
13. Regarding the potential signing of an MoU between the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) and the Chilean Association SOFOFA, both sides will endeavour to encourage approximations between the two trade associations, as well as encouraging other trade associations to connect, in order to strengthen vital exchanges between the business communities of South Africa and Chile.

II. Status of Economic Developments in South Africa and Chile

14. South Africa outlined the priorities of the Government of National Unity, which amongst others called Rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the promotion of fixed capital investment and industrialization, job creation, transformation, livelihood support, land reform, infrastructure development, structural reforms and transformational change, fiscal sustainability, and the sustainable use of our national resources and endowments. Further, the

South Africa side informed that it currently reviewing its industrial policy with view to pursue decarbonisation, industrialisation and digitalization.

15. South Africa highlighted the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that provides opportunity to Chilean companies in their effort to diversify into larger and integrated African market.
16. Chile referred to its emphasis on articulating trade policy with national economic development in a way that allows for increased productivity, inclusion, and sustainability. Through the attraction of foreign investment that generates added value, the diversification of its exports and integration of SMEs, cooperatives, women and indigenous peoples into regional and global value chains, deepening Chile's insertion in subregional blocs. In this regard, Chile's main interest as government is to achieve greater productivity; trade diversification; sustainability and environmental protection; social and economic inclusion. Also, Chile has prioritised value chains in the mining, manufacturing, digital economy and energy sectors.
17. Chile also exchanged information on their on-going and concluded trade agreements negotiations. On this area, Chile updated South Africa, communicating for instance that Chile is negotiating bilaterally with Trinidad and Tobago, Philippines and South Korea. In the plurilateral trade agreement area, as for accession negotiations, Chile is participating as a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP) in the accession process of Costa Rica to that agreement, after the successful accession process of the United Kingdom to the CPTPP, as well as participating as a member of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) in the accession processes of China, Canada, Costa Rica and Peru. On concluded negotiations, Chile transmitted that it finalised updates of their bilateral trade agreements with Mexico, Indonesia, EFTA and MERCOSUR, respectively. Furthermore, Chile also concluded bilateral negotiations with the United Arab Emirates. Lastly, Chile informed that it concluded an Advanced Framework Agreement with the European Union, and an Interim Trade Agreement that entered into force on the 1st of February 2025.

III. Opportunities for Cooperation

Trade Promotion

18. As part of the implementation of the MoU between RSA and Chile, both sides are encouraged to promote trade and investment through amongst others:
 - Exchange a list of products of interest for exports

- Analysis of potential trade challenges facing the export of products
- Encouraging virtual and in-person trade promotion activities
- Forging ties between the Exports Branch of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**), Undersecretariat of International Economic Affairs (SUBREI) and ProChile.

Investment Promotion

19. Both sides noted that there is a group of companies operating in each other's market providing a basis to increase and expand two-way investment as follows:

- Invest SA will connect with InvestChile to identify areas of collaboration
- Hosting of an investment forum to showcase investment opportunities
- Identify sectoral areas of mutual interest such as Energy, Mining, Agri-business. Consideration to then host three sectoral webinars for investment
- Exchange Inward and outward delegations focusing on meeting with leading companies in various sectors to be determined by the respective competent agencies.

Decarbonization and Strategic and Critical Minerals resources cooperation

20. Both sides are well-endowed in mineral resources and agreed to explore cooperation to encourage beneficiation of these strategic minerals. Beneficiation opportunities including cooperation on areas such as fuels cell, battery manufacturing, among others.

21. Both sides undertake to strengthen economic ties between companies and institutions to foster technological advancements, innovation, research and development, attract investments into their respective value chains including the enhancement of resilient and sustainable supply chains.

Value Chains

22. Both sides recognize the importance of global and regional value chains (GRVCs) and so undertake to particularly explore them as opportunities for cooperation. In this regard, both sides will establish a Working Group on Global and Regional Value Chains, and Production Linkages, where relevant experts from both sides will seek ways in which both sides can improve their position and further integration into GRVCs.

Small Business Development and Women-Led Enterprises

23. Both sides consider cooperation in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and women-led enterprises as critical to promote inclusive trade.
24. Therefore, both sides will cooperate in these fields, exchanging knowledge and expertise, integration into global and regional value chains, start-up programs, export opportunities for MSMEs, incubators, and finance for MSMEs.
25. Both sides to exchange contact points before end of April 2025, after their respective coordination with relevant Ministries and agencies tasked with MSMEs and women-led enterprises.

Trade challenges

26. Chile reiterated its request for sanitary and phytosanitary access for vegetables and livestock products, as it was reflected on the previous VII JTIC, prioritizing kiwi fruit (*actinidia deliciosa*).
27. The Chilean Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) sent all the requested technical information to the Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) of South Africa, required for the start of the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for kiwi fruit.
28. Chile requested South Africa to address this trade concern as a priority, in order to facilitate trade and in line with the objective of increasing bilateral trade flows.
29. On another trade challenge, Chile requested South Africa to provide recognition of Chile as a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) free country. Accordingly, Chile expressed to South Africa that in September 2023, it was affected by some outbreaks of HPAI from migratory birds coming from the northern hemisphere. The situation affected all countries in the region. In September of that same year, Chile quickly recovered its status of a country free of HPAI. In fact, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) published the notification of Chile as a free country. During the process, Chile kept South Africa informed about the evolution of the outbreaks and of the recovery of its status. Considering that all the technical information requested by South Africa has been sent, Chile expects to move forward with the request in the short term, given that the recovery of status was recognized by WOAH and by all countries, pending just South Africa.
30. South Africa undertook to exchange a focal point from an authorized institution before end of March 2025, and requested Chile to send a summary and all relevant information in order to

facilitate their internal consultations on both sanitary and phytosanitary access for kiwi fruit, as well as Chile's HPAI free country status.

31. Regarding trade agreements, due to the importance that Chile attaches to the South African market within the African continent, Chile is closely following the trade negotiations that South Africa currently has in course, as well as implementation and concluded processes, both bilaterally and in the framework of the South African Customs Union (SACU) as well as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Chile expressed that the current approaches expressed on different trade and investment fields in this JTIC, like trade and investment promotion, cooperation in several strategic areas, can allow both sides to further mature our economic links. Following this work route, Chile is sure that both sides at some moment will need to go further and deeper in terms of integration, by means of a Free Trade Agreement, creating new possibilities for a more integral and complementary development between the two nations.
32. South Africa appreciated Chile's remarks and informed that SACU currently is undertaking a study on all FTA requests received from partner countries. Accordingly, South Africa requested Chile to provide information in due course. Both sides agreed to follow up and convene a Senior Officials Meeting by the end of June 2025.

IV. Closing Remarks

33. Co-chairs applauded the work done by the Senior Officials Meeting.
34. Both Parties noted that the IX JTIC meeting will be convened in Chile at a date to be communicated through diplomatic channels.
35. Both Parties appreciated the progress achieved thus far in enhancing trade and investment and committed to intensify the cooperation to achieving more growth.
36. Both Parties agreed on the development of the implementation plan as well to arrange scheduled periodic meetings in particular the midterm review meeting in order to track progress on the implementation of the JTIC outcomes. The midterm review meeting will be held in June 2025 in person in Chile.
37. Chilean Delegation thanked South Africa for its hospitality and for hosting the meeting.

Done and signed on 28th February 2025, in Pretoria, in the English language.

On behalf of the Republic of South Africa



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Zuko Godlimpi
Co-Chair of the South African Side
Deputy Minister
Department of Trade, Industry and
Competition of the Republic of South Africa

On behalf of the Republic of Chile



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Claudia Sanhueza Riveros
Co-Chair of the Chilean Side
Vice-Minister of International Economic Affairs
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