



International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa

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ITAC and China's TRIB Sign Renewed Record of Understanding on Trade Remedy Cooperation

The International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (“ITAC” or “the Commission”) and the Trade Remedies Investigation Bureau (TRIB) of China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) have signed a renewed Record of Understanding (RoU) on trade remedy cooperation, marking a significant milestone in trade relations between South Africa and China. From 24 to 28 August 2026, an ITAC delegation led by Chief Commissioner Ayabonga Cawe visited China to participate in the 6th Session of the China–South Africa Trade Remedy Cooperation Mechanism, hosted by TRIB, during which the RoU was signed on 26 August 2026.

A renewed and modernised framework of co-operation on Trade Remedies

The renewed RoU follows engagement between ITAC and the TRIB in 2025, aimed at reviewing and modernising the cooperation arrangement originally concluded in 2006 between ITAC and the former Bureau of Fair Trade (BOFT). As part of this process, ITAC hosted a TRIB delegation in Pretoria in July 2025, where the two authorities engaged on the scope and content of a revised cooperation framework, including areas of cooperation, alignment with current international obligations, and practical mechanisms for engagement. These discussions were followed by continued technical engagements between the two authorities, culminating in the signing of the renewed RoU in August 2026.

The RoU establishes a strengthened framework for cooperation between ITAC and TRIB on trade remedy matters, including anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures. It aims to:

- Enhance information and experience sharing between the two authorities;
- Deepen technical cooperation and mutual understanding of trade remedy practices;

- Strengthen cooperation on market information, transparency and notification practices, consistent with applicable World Trade Organisation (WTO) obligations; and
- Support cooperation in identifying and addressing potential circumvention of trade remedy measures.

The RoU represents an important step in strengthening institutional relations between South Africa and China and provides a foundation for continued engagement on trade remedy administration, technical capacity development and the promotion of fair, transparent and rules-based international trade.

Courtesy visit to South Africa's Embassy in China

The programme also included a courtesy visit to South Africa's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Her Excellency Ambassador Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, during which the delegation briefed the Ambassador on ITAC's programme and engagements in China.

Industry engagements

Beyond these institutional and diplomatic engagements, the delegation also visited Beijing Shougang Cold Rolling Co., a steelmaker and the Xiaomi electric vehicle (EV) Hyperfactory. These visits gave the delegation first-hand observations into the extent of automation in these large-scale manufacturing operations, within China's industrial sector, offering valuable insight into industries and sectors relevant to ITAC's work and the broader international trade environment.

ITAC extends its sincere appreciation to DG: Ms Peng Tao, DDG: Mr Wang Zhenfu and the entire TRIB and MOFCOM teams for their warm hospitality and for facilitating a productive programme that deepened the bilateral co-operation between our two nations. The Commission looks forward to building on the outcomes of the 6th Session and further strengthening cooperation and technical exchange with TRIB.

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