

China-Mauritius Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between People's Republic of China and the Republic of Mauritius (China-Mauritius Free Trade Agreement) was signed on 17 October 2019. It is the 1st FTA that China has signed with an African country

The China-Mauritius Free Trade Agreement comprises 17 Chapters encompassing Trade in Goods, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Competition, Intellectual Property, Electronic Commerce, Trade in Services, Investment, Economic Cooperation, amongst others.

The FTA also contains Annexes on Rules of Origin, Market Access for Goods schedule for Mauritius and China and Services Market Access schedule for Mauritius and China.

A major achievement for Mauritius

The China-Mauritius FTA represents a major achievement since it is the first Agreement that China has signed with a country in Africa. The Agreement will give Mauritius access to a huge market of some 1.4 billion inhabitants.

Once the Free Trade Agreement enters into force, Mauritius will benefit from duty free access on the Chinese market on 8,547 products, representing 96% of the Chinese tariff lines. The duties applicable on 88% of these tariff lines would be eliminated with immediate effect. The remaining tariffs would be eliminated over a 5 to 7-year period.

Vast potential for key Mauritian export products

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between People's Republic of China and the Republic of Mauritius covers key export items for Mauritius such as rum, frozen fish, noodles and pasta, wafers and biscuits, fresh fruits, juices, mineral water, linen, garments, watches and articles of leather, amongst others.

Furthermore, Mauritius struck an extraordinary deal with the Chinese side on special sugar. In fact, China agreed to grant Mauritius a Tariff Rate

Quota of 50,000 tons' market access for special sugar with an in-quota rate of 15%.

40 service sectors

As regards trade in services, Mauritius service providers would have access to more than 40 service sectors, including amongst others financial services, telecommunications, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), professional services, construction and health services.

Mauritius would also be able to establish businesses in China as wholly owned entities or in joint partnership with Chinese operators. The FTA will create new investment opportunities in Mauritius targeting the Chinese market. The FTA provides for the protection of investors and their investments against discriminatory and unfair treatment. Moreover, investors will be compensated if expropriation of their investments is inevitable.

Economic Cooperation

Regarding the Economic Cooperation chapter of the Agreement, Mauritius and China have agreed to collaborate in 10 areas, including industrial development to increase competitiveness; to develop manufacturing based on innovation and research; to conduct exchange of specialists; to have an exchange of researchers for disseminating know how and for support in technology and innovation and to cooperate in the financial sector.

The China-Mauritius FTA will become operational after it is ratified by both countries.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RI & IT
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