

Trade Policy Forum

Private Sector Advisory Group

Vision Statement

Relations between the United States and India are at an all-time high. People-to-people contacts proliferate; Indian students now number more than 80,000 at American universities and the Indian-American community – more than two million strong – ensures two-way family, cultural and touristic ties.

Commercial connections have expanded steadily since India began to open its economy in 1991. Services trade is especially robust, and exchanges of goods and FDI in both directions are accelerating.

But the trade and investment relationship has not reached a level either country finds satisfactory. Barriers to trade and investment in both countries remain.

For these reasons, the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was established in 2005 by the two governments. Its purpose was to find ways to solve trade and investment problems between India and the United States. The Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) has been created by the U.S. and Indian Governments to assist the Trade Policy Forum. It is an entity independent of the two governments whose purpose is to provide the TPF with counsel that will help propel closer economic and commercial relations between India and the United States.

In fulfilling its purpose, the PSAG will strive to achieve the freest possible trade regime between our countries by securing a balance between ambition and realism. A long-term target should be to achieve the freest possible environment for trade, investment and technology transfer between our countries that opens the U.S. and Indian economies on a comprehensive basis. In the meantime, there are many intermediate targets to be attained to create a solid foundation for a much closer trading and investing relationship between India and the United States.

To that end, the PSAG has identified the following intermediate targets for the two governments:

1. Negotiate a mutually agreeable Bilateral Investment Treaty by the end of 2008
2. Continue to promote sectoral openings.
3. Promote regulatory cooperation.
4. Cooperate on all aspects of protection of intellectual property and promotion of technology transfer.