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## INDONESIA, UZBEKISTAN BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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*Indonesias Minister of Trade, Budi Santoso, and Uzbekistans Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade, Laziz Kudratov, launched negotiations via videoconference aimed at concluding a free trade agreement between the two countries, TV BRICS reports.*

He expressed hope that the free trade agreement between Indonesia and Uzbekistan would expand market access for each country, strengthen value chains by improving production and supply processes, and create tangible opportunities for businesses, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

It is noted that Uzbekistan is a strategic partner of Indonesia in Central Asia. Owing to its geographical location, it may serve as a gateway for Indonesian products, enabling access through Uzbek territory to the markets of other countries and allowing Indonesia to strengthen its trade positions.

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