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India to stress on equal opportunities for developing nations in G-20 meet

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NEW DELHI: India will stress on a level playing field for [developing countries](#) and faith in the stalled global trade talks when trade ministers from [G-20](#) countries meet in Mexico on Thursday to discuss measuring trade in terms of value added by a country that could help achieve a greater understanding of global supply chains.

New Delhi will also warn against over-stressing on the concept of promoting a global value chain, which will be the focus of discussion at the meet, as it could impinge on a developing country's wish to move up the value chain and also poses risks of the entire chain getting affected if a particular link mal-functions, a government official told ET.

Commerce and industry minister [Anand Sharma](#), who will represent India at the meeting, is expected to find support from other developing countries including Brazil, China, South [Africa](#) and Argentina on the issues.

The agenda for the G-20 trade ministers talks about support for the OECD-WTO initiative to measure trade in value added terms that would help achieve a new understanding of global trade in terms of regional and global value chains.

Ministers are also expected to agree on short term outcomes that the G20 could pursue which would include simplifying customs procedures and removing other unnecessary trade transaction costs, promote opening services that support value chains, and ensuring available and affordable trade finance.

On the [WTO-OECD initiative](#) to develop a new measure of global trade capturing the value addition at each stage of production, India believes that while it holds promise in determining trade competitiveness of a country, the methodology has to be made clearer.

"It is not clear which data sets are to be captured and at what level to calculate the value add. Data consistency across countries is also a challenge," the official said.