

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
between  
**the Economic Cooperation Organization Secretariat**  
and  
**the International Trade Centre (ITC)**

WHEREAS, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (hereinafter referred to as "ITC") is the focal point in the United Nations system for technical cooperation in trade promotion with developing countries and economies in transition;

WHEREAS, the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) (hereinafter, where appropriate, referred to as "ECO Secretariat") is an inter-governmental organization for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among its member states;

WHEREAS, the six areas of specialization of ITC are: product and market development, development of trade support services, trade information, human resource development, international purchasing and supply management, and needs assessment and programme design, including for intra-regional trade development;

WHEREAS, the ECO Secretariat, in increasing its efforts to foster intra-regional trade development, has decided to provide technical assistance to its member countries by making use of some of ITC's tools specifically designed for the promotion of South-South trade;

WHEREAS, ITC is willing to provide necessary support to the ECO Secretariat in the application of these tools;

WHEREAS, in order to enhance the intra-regional trade development activities on the ECO region, ITC and the ECO Secretariat wish to coordinate their efforts in the field of assistance to the ECO member countries to increase intra-regional trade;

NOW, THEREFORE, the ECO Secretariat and ITC have agreed to the following:

**Article I**  
**Purpose**

- 1.01. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU") is to provide the framework for a partnership arrangement between the ECO Secretariat and ITC ensuring close cooperation and coordination of efforts between the ECO Secretariat and ITC in fostering the intra-regional trade development within the ECO region.

**Article II**  
**Areas of Cooperation**

- 2.01. In accordance with their respective areas of specialization, the parties hereto shall cooperate in the following areas of activity:

- (a) Share and exchange of relevant information and documentation on a regular basis related to the mandate of both organizations and especially in enhancing intra-regional trade in the ECO region;
- (b) Trade development among the ECO Secretariat member countries, applying some of ITC's tools specifically developed for South-South trade development.
- (c) Collaborate to enhance the understanding of the member countries and especially their business sectors of the opportunities and challenges emerging from WTO agreements on the regional and international level.
- (d) Conduct regular consultations at the senior professional level to identify and elaborate potential joint projects in support of the efforts of their member countries in mutually agreed fields.

### **Article III**

#### **Means of Cooperation**

- 3.0.1 The parties hereto shall achieve cooperation in the areas mentioned in Article II either through co-financing or through financing secured by the ECO Secretariat from a third donor such as UNDP, using ITC's technical expertise in these fields. The implementation modalities and procedures for these activities will be worked out at a later stage between the concerned departments of the ECO Secretariat and ITC.
- 3.0.2 In the area of trade-related exchange of information, the parties will, within their limits of resources, exchange information, publications, studies, research and related reports with regard to the ECO region.
- 3.0.3 The parties hereto may cooperate by means other than those specifically stipulated above, within the limits of their resources, if such means are deemed appropriate for achieving the purposes of this MoU.

### **Article IV**

#### **Undertaking**

- 4.0.1 Each party hereto undertakes that in order to achieve the purposes of this MoU, within available resources and according to its priorities, it shall:
  - (a) respond, immediately, and to the limit of its capacity, to the reasonable demands, requests and enquiries of the other party;
  - (b) ensure the accuracy of information exchanged with the other party whenever possible;
  - (c) ensure proper utilization of the facilities made available by cooperation pursuant to this MoU.

**Article V**  
**Validity**

- 5.01 This MoU shall be valid for a period of two years from the date of its signature on the understanding that either party is at liberty to terminate it at any time after furnishing to the other party a notice of termination six (6) months in advance of the date on which the party furnishing such notice wishes to have the MoU terminated.
- 5.02 Without prejudice to the foregoing, steps shall be taken to ensure that termination of this MoU will not be prejudicial to any activities or programmes undertaken within the framework of the MoU.

**Article VI**  
**Review**

- 6.01 Representatives of the parties hereto shall meet periodically if possible to review progress made in achieving the objectives of this MoU and to consider ways and means of improving cooperation there under.

**Article VII**  
**Amendment**

- 7.01 This MoU may be amended at any time by written agreement of the parties.

**Article VIII**  
**Miscellaneous**

- 8.01 Each party shall designate a contact point for liaison for the purpose of this MoU.

**Article IX**  
**Entry Into Force**

- 9.01 This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature. IN WITNESS HEREOF, the parties hereto have signed this MoU in two original copies in the English language on the date herein below indicated.

For and on behalf of the  
ECO secretariat

Abdolrahim Gavahi  
Ambassador/Secretary General

March 13, 2001

For and on behalf of the International  
Trade  
Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)

J. Denis Bélisle  
Executive Director

March 8, 2001