

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON STRATEGIC DIALOGUE
BETWEEN
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR
THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF
AND
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait, members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, hereinafter referred to as " GCC Member States ", and the People's Republic of China, together hereinafter referred to as " the two parties ",

Reaffirming the prerequisite of not contravening, the Charter of the GCC, the laws of the GCC member states the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of China, the charter of the United Nations, and the international obligations of the two parties,

Desiring to enhance and expand their existing friendly relations and cooperation in various areas,

Noting the benefits to be attained through more effective consultations on issues of mutual concern, and

Having decided to establish the strategic dialogue mechanism

Have hereby reached the following understanding:

Article One

- 1 - The two parties shall hold annual strategic dialogue meetings at foreign ministers Level to be attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the GCC Member State holding presidency of the GCC Ministerial Council, the Foreign Minister of the GCC Member State to hold presidency of the next session of the GCC Ministerial Council or his representative, and the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council.

- 2 - The annual meetings will be alternately held between the two parties; at the GCC Member State holding the Presidency of the GCC Ministerial Council or at the Headquarters of the GCC Secretariat, and at the People Republic of China. The date of each meeting will be determined through diplomatic channels.
- 3 - The present mechanism shall not be deemed in conflict with mechanisms of the bilateral political consultations existing between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the individual GCC States.

Article Two

The Ministerial Meetings, referred to in Article One above, constitute a framework for planning and strengthening the relations between the two parties; coordinating their positions on international and regional issues; and enhancing their collective cooperation in all areas of mutual concern. The Ministerial Meetings shall cover the following aspects: reviewing the collective dialogue and cooperation between the two parties in the previous year; addressing existing issues and identifying the direction and areas of cooperation for the next year. The following areas may be included:

- 1 - Political issues and regional and international topics of mutual concern
- 2 - Trade, investment, energy and other economic areas of mutual concern
- 3 - Comprehensive implementation of the Framework Agreement for Economic, Trade, Investment and Technical Cooperation Between the Member States of the GCC and People's Republic of China, signed by the two parties in July 2004.
- 4 - FTA negotiations.
- 5 - Cooperation in areas of culture, education, scientific research, environment and health.

Other areas of cooperation may be included subject to mutual consultations between the two parties.

Article Three

- 1 - A Senior Officials Committee (SOC) shall meet once a year, prior to the Joint Ministerial Meeting .
- 2 - The Committee shall prepare the agenda of the Joint Ministerial Meeting and review the topics to be discussed. The SOC shall submit its reports and recommendations to the Joint Ministerial Meeting.

- 3 - The SOC may establish subcommittees to examine various areas of cooperation between the two parties. These subcommittees shall submit their recommendations to the SOC.

Article Four

This MOU shall enter into force upon completion of respective procedures by each party, and will remain in effect for a period of two years. The MOU will be automatically renewed for subsequent similar periods, unless either party gives a written notice of termination to the other party. Notwithstanding, this MOU will remain in effect for three months from the date of such notification.

Article Five

This MOU may be amended by mutual consent of the two parties by the exchange of relevant letters. Any dispute that may arise between the two parties over the interpretation or implementation of this MOU shall be amicably settled through consultations between the two parties.

SIGNED in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, on this Friday, the 4th day of June 2010, in three originals, each, in the Arabic, Chinese, and English languages, with the three texts being equally authentic. In the event of discrepancy, the English text shall be used.

For the GCC Member States

**Shaikh Dr. Mohammed Sabah Salem Al-Sabah
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the State of Kuwait, President of the
Current Session of the GCC Ministerial Council**

For China

**Yang Jiechi
Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Secretary General
The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**