

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
STRATEGIC DIALOGUE
BETWEEN
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE
ARAB STATES OF THE GULF
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

The governments of 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 Australia, together hereinafter referred to as "the two parties",

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

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

Re-affirming their commitment by the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter,

Have hereby reached the following understanding :

Article One

- 1 - The two parties shall endeavor to hold annual strategic dialogue meetings at Foreign Ministers level: the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the GCC Member State holding presidency of the GCC Ministerial Council, with participation of the GCC Member State to hold presidency of next session of the GCC Ministerial Council and the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council. The date and timing of each meeting will be determined through diplomatic channels.
- 2 - The present mechanism shall not be deemed in conflict with the bilateral political consultations existing between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Australia and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of individual GCC Member States.

Article Two

Areas of Cooperation

The Ministerial Meetings, referred to in Article One above, shall constitute a framework for planning and strengthening the relations between the two parties; coordinating their attitudes on the international and regional issues and enhancing their existing cooperation in all areas of mutual concern. The two parties will cooperate in the areas set out below through the exchange of information and best practices and expertise:

- 1 - Political issues and regional and international topics of mutual concern
- 2 - Trade, and investment, including FTA negotiations
- 3 - Economic cooperation, as well as cooperation in the areas of industry, technology, energy, the environment, culture, higher education and scientific research.

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

Article Three

- 1 - A Senior Officials Committee (SOC) shall meet, when necessary, for consultation and preparation for 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 will enter into force from the date of latest mutual notification 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 the city of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on this 8th day of March 2011 in two originals, in the Arabic and English languages, with both copies being equally authentic.

For the GCC Member States

Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahayan

Minister of Foreign Affairs,

United Arab Emirates,

President of the Current Session

of the GCC Ministerial Council

For the Government of Australia

Kevin Rudd

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Secretary General,

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf