



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
AND
THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL
OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR
THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF**

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta and the Secretariat-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (hereinafter referred to as “the two Sides”);

Re-affirming their commitment to the universally recognized principles and rules of international law enshrined, inter alia, in the United Nations Charter,

Recognizing the need to expand their discussions on various areas in order to promote further cooperation between the two Sides,

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

Have hereby reached the following understanding:

1. The two Sides will hold annual strategic dialogue at Foreign Ministers Level: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta 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 the next session of the GCC Ministerial Council and the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council.
2. The annual strategic dialogue will be held alternately between the two Sides; at the Republic of Malta or in the GCC Member State holding Presidency of the GCC Ministerial Council, or at the Headquarters of the GCC Secretariat-General, or any

venue agreed between both Sides. The date of the dialogue will be determined through diplomatic channels.

3. The annual strategic dialogue will constitute a framework for planning and strengthening the relations between the two Sides; coordinating their positions on international and regional issues and enhancing their existing cooperation in all areas of mutual concern. The strategic dialogue will address the following topics:
 - a. Review of the mechanisms of dialogue and areas of cooperation between the two Sides during the year preceding each meeting, discussing current issues and determining areas and trends of cooperation for next year.
 - b. Political issues and regional and international issues of mutual concern.
 - c. Trade, investment, tourism, and other economic areas of mutual concern.
 - d. Energy, renewable energy, environment, and health.
 - e. Cooperation in areas of culture, sports, education, and scientific research.

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

4. A Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) will be held once a year, or more, as needed, well in advance of the annual strategic dialogue meeting. The SOM will prepare the agenda of the annual strategic dialogue and review the topics to be discussed. The SOM will submit its reports and recommendations to the annual strategic dialogue. The SOM may establish specialized subcommittee to examine various area of cooperation between the two Sides. These subcommittees will submit their recommendations to the SOM.
5. This MOU will be implemented from the date of its signing, and remain in effect for a period of five years. The MOU will be automatically renewed for subsequent similar periods, unless either Side gives a written notice of termination to the other Side. The termination will take effect six months after receipt of the written notification.
6. This MOU may be amended by mutual consent of the two Sides by the exchange of relevant letters. Any dispute that may arise between the two Sides over the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be amicably settled through consultations between the two Sides.
7. The present mechanism will not be deemed in conflict with the mechanisms of bilateral consultations existing between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the individual GCC States.

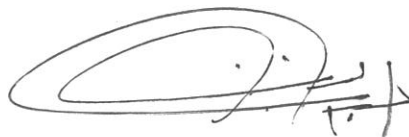
Signed in the City of Valletta, Malta, on this 30th day of January 2017, in two originals each in the English and Arabic language, all texts being equally valid.

**For
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Malta**



**Hon. Dr. George W. Vella
Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**For
The Secretariat-General of
the Cooperation Council for the Arab
States of the Gulf**



**H.E. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al Zayani
Secretary General**