

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Turkey and the  
Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Desirous to strengthen the friendly relations between their countries and to develop cooperation in the field of environment;

Deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the state of environment and global life-supporting systems, and the effects of that deterioration on economic and social development;

Sharing the common concern and responsibilities for protecting and improving the human and natural environment of their respective countries, and a common interest in the cause of global environmental protection and improvement;

Recognizing the importance of the protection and enhancement of environment for the health and well-being of present and future generations;

Convinced that sustainable economic development requires environmentally sound management of natural resources;

Stressing the need for effective cooperation in the areas of environmentally sound technology;

Acknowledging that significant mutual benefits can be derived from cooperation in research, monitoring, protection and enhancement of specific areas of environment;

Have agreed as follows:

**I. GENERAL**

The Parties shall cooperate in the field of environment on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

**II. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The following environmental issues are of primary concern for the Parties, for which they shall collaborate on:

1. Environmental protection in urban areas;
2. Conservation of nature and natural resources;

3. Protection of the atmosphere by combating man-made causes of climate change and depletion of the ozone layer;
4. Environmental impact assessment;
5. Protection of the marine environment and coastal areas;
6. Promotion of environmental education and public awareness;
7. Protection of the quality of drinking water resources;
8. Environmentally sound management of wastes and toxic chemicals;
9. Emergency preparedness planning for environmental disasters;
10. Development and use of environmentally sound technologies keeping in mind the goal of sustainable development;
11. Environmental monitoring methods, surveillance techniques and information systems;
12. Environmental policy;
13. Conservation of biological diversity.

### III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR COOPERATION

1. Each Party shall designate a Coordinator to reach the goals of this Memorandum of Understanding. Such designation will be formally communicated to the other Party. Joint meetings of the Coordinators will be held each year alternately in Turkey and Iran to review the on-going and to facilitate future collaborative activities.
2. Each Party shall provide such administrative arrangements as it deems necessary for its full and most effective participation in various activities of this Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Each party shall bear the costs of its participation in the activities, unless otherwise agreed.
4. In accordance with their applicable laws and government policies, the parties may call upon relevant national governmental agencies, academic institutions and private sector, that could assist in the implementation and furtherance of activities subject to this Memorandum of Understanding.

5. The parties shall consider the following forms of cooperation, above all, for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

- Meetings to discuss programmes and environmental policy issues;
- Joint activities as mutually determined;
- Exchange of technical personnel and of information on know-how, techniques and technologies;
- Meetings of technical nature such as task teams, seminars, workshops, symposia and conferences to address specific aspects of the cooperation, the organisation of which is of mutual benefit.

#### IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be interpreted to be prejudicial to the existing rights and duties arising from agreements under international law.

2. Activities under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to their conformity with the programmes of the Parties and to the existing laws and legal provisions in each country. The Parties shall decide on the modalities of cooperation for each activity under this Memorandum of Understanding by mutual consent.

3. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the day following the day which the Parties exchange the notes of information upon completing the necessary national formalities for the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding. This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for five years unless denounced by either party.

Done in Ankara on 21 December 1996 in two copies, in the Turkish, English and Persian languages all versions being equally authentic. In case of discrepancy between texts, the English text will prevail.

On behalf of the  
Government of Turkey

On behalf of the  
Government of the Islamic of Iran