

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium
Enterprises of the
Government of the Republic of India**

AND

**The Small Business Administration of the
Government of the United States of America**

ON

**Promoting Cooperation on Small and Medium-size
Enterprises (SME)**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Government of the Republic of India (MSME) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) of the Government of the United States of America (referred to hereinafter collectively as the "Participants" and individually as a "Participant");

Recalling the Joint Statement from the United States and India on the meeting of President Joseph Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 22, 2023;

Based on friendship and cooperation ties between the Participants with the aim of strengthening relations and partnerships between the two countries in the field of promotion and development of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs);

Recognizing the importance of empowering entrepreneurs and MSMEs to ensure equitable, inclusive, and employment-friendly economic growth;

Seeking to increase MSME participation in international commerce and trade;

Aspiring to promote greater MSME integration into resilient supply chains to strengthen production and trade in high value-added sectors, such as clean environment and information technologies;

Recognizing the importance of supporting women-owned, rural and historically underserved community MSMEs as vital participants in the global economy;

Taking into consideration each country's laws and regulations, the Participants have reached the following understandings:

Section 1

The Participants intend to exchange expertise on issues related to improving MSME participation in the global marketplace, including on counseling and training; access to capital (i.e., trade and export finance); technology and digital trade, and regulatory and trade facilitation. This could include high-level visits between the two countries, conducting joint programs and other discussion formats, such as seminars, workshops, and webinars.

Section 2

The Participants intend to strengthen their partnership and collaborate to conduct programs, virtual and/or physical, for women entrepreneurs and women-owned MSMEs to empower them and facilitate trade partnership among Indian and U.S. women-owned small businesses.

Section 3

Recognizing the importance of the green economy for small businesses in terms of becoming more sustainable and taking advantage of global marketplace opportunities, the Participants intend to collaborate on a virtual program to share best practices and lessons learned around MSMEs and the green transition.

Section 4

1. The Participants intend to meet (virtually or in-person) annually or at such other intervals, as mutually decided, to monitor the progress of implementation of this MoU. These meetings should be held at the level of an Associate Administrator for the U.S. SBA and Joint Secretary for the Ministry of MSME, Government of the Republic of India.

2. The Participants intend to designate points of contact within 30 days of signature of this MoU.
3. The Participants intend to coordinate on announcements related to this MoU, including subsequent activities.

Section 5

1. This MoU becomes operative on the date of signature by the Participants. This MoU is intended to remain in effect for a period of five years and for any subsequent period as the Participants may decide in writing.
2. This MoU is an expression of intent only. The Participants acknowledge that this MoU is not legally binding and is not intended to give rise to any rights or obligations under either domestic or international law. This MoU does not cover financial services. The MOU does not obligate and will not result in an exchange of funds, personnel, property, services, or any kind of financial commitment. It will not result in a transfer of resources between the Participants. Any future transfer of funds or obligation to undertake certain work must be confirmed by an appropriate funding agreement executed by authorized officials from the agencies that are signatories to this MOU. The Participants may modify this MoU at any time in writing.
3. Either Participant may, at any time, notify the other of its intention to discontinue this MoU, but should endeavor to provide 90 days advanced written notice to the other Participant.
4. Each Participant intends to bear its own costs and expenditures incurred in connection with this MoU. The activities of each Participant in connection with this MoU are contingent on the availability of funds and other resources, and are

subject to the laws and regulations that govern each Participant. No funds are obligated by this MoU.

5. The Participants should address any differences of opinion that may arise with respect to the interpretation or application of this MoU through consultations.

Signed at New Delhi on 13th day of August 2024, in two originals in the English language.

On behalf of the Ministry of Micro,
Small and Medium Enterprises of the
Government of the Republic of India



Mr. S.C.L. Das,
Secretary,
The Ministry of Micro, Small and
Medium Enterprises,
Government of the Republic of India

On behalf of the Small Business
Administration of the Government of
the United States of America



Ms. Isabel Casillas Guzman,
Administrator of the U.S. Small
Business Administration,
Government of the United States of
America