

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THE FIELD OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED
ENTERPRISES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA, ON THE ONE HAND,
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA, ON THE OTHER
HAND, Hereinafter referred to as the “contracting parties”**

Willing to reinforce relations of friendship, solidarity and cooperation between their two peoples;

Conscious of the need to develop cooperation ties in the promotion and development of small and medium-sized enterprises;

Recognizing that small and medium-sized enterprises play a major role in the economic development of both countries;

Considering that an exchange of experiences will be a sure asset in the promotion of this sector of the economy;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE-1

The Contracting Parties agree on the following objectives and areas of cooperation, on mutual terms and conditions:

- capacity building for developing policy and institutional framework through exchange of experts for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the two countries;
- promotion of joint actions between the Tunisian and Indian partners aiming to improve the investment, the creation of companies, the improvement of the competitiveness of industrial companies such as the organization of days of partnership and seminars and workshops;
- carrying out potential survey and feasibility studies to identify thrust areas and opportunities for development of SMEs in the two countries;

- promoting partnership projects and institution-to-institution and enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation between the two countries;
- providing training for improvement of managerial & technical skills for MSMEs;
- organising exhibitions and trade fairs for marketing of products and small projects;
- exchanging business missions to help initiate technology transfer and sustainable alliances between Indian and Tunisian enterprises;
- exchanging information, experiences and know how in the field of upgrading of the industrial base and consortia;
- establishment of projects of cooperation between the structures in charge of the development of the industrial sector in the two countries such as technical centres and agencies of promotion of industry and SMEs;
- implementation of programs and common specific actions aiming at the promotion of synergy between the system of research and industry.

ARTICLE-2

The Contracting Parties agree to exchange experiences and know how as regards small and medium-sized undertakings, creation and development financing, as well as mechanisms set up to perform their financial restructuring.

ARTICLE-3

The Contracting Parties agree to exchange experiences and know how as regards administrative backup to small and medium-sized undertakings in matters of creation and development, and administrative support as well as companies in economic difficulties, particularly within companies takeover procedures.

ARTICLE-4

The Contracting Parties shall regularly exchange information relating to micro, small and medium business enterprises, development opportunities and possibilities of partnerships and shall work towards their achievement.

ARTICLE-5

A Joint Committee, hereinafter referred to, as “Committee” shall monitor the implementation of this Agreement. The Committee shall comprise representatives of the Ministry in charge of SMEs in Tunisia and the Ministry in charge of SMEs in India.

ARTICLE-6

The Committee shall meet in ordinary sessions by rotation in Tunisian and India and at extraordinary sessions at the request of either party at any time, as and when necessary.

The Committee shall oversee formulation of programs and plans of cooperation and monitor the progress of implementation with the aims of strengthening relations and partnership between the two countries in the field of promotion and development of SMEs.

ARTICLE-7

This Agreement shall come into force on the date on which both parties have notified each other of the completion of their respective internal ratification procedures in their own countries.

This Agreement shall be valid for five years from the date of its entry into force. It shall be automatically renewed for a same period, unless terminated by either party at any time by giving a written notice through diplomatic channels to the other party. Termination shall be effective six months after the date of such notice. In the latter case, and unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties, the termination of the Agreement shall not interrupt the implementation of projects and programs already under way, such implementation continuing until the conclusion of said projects and programs.

ARTICLE-8

Done at Tunis and signed in 2007 on this 8th day of February, in two originals in English, Arabic and Hindi languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

**For the Government of the
Republic of India**



E. AHAMED

**Minister of State for
External Affairs
Affairs**

**For the Government of the
Republic of Tunisia**



SAIDA CHTIQUI

**Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs
In charge of American and Asian**