AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON A TRADE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION FORUM

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (individually a "Party" and collectively the "Parties"):

Desiring to enhance the bonds of friendship and spirit of cooperation, to expand trade, and to strengthen economic relations between the Parties;

Recognizing the importance of fostering an open and predictable environment for trade and investment;

Recognizing the benefits the Parties can derive from increased trade and investment, and that trade-distorting investment measures and investment-constraining and protectionist trade measures can reduce these benefits;

Recognizing that both Parties are signatories to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, and the importance of promoting transparency and adhering to the Convention, particularly in matters related to trade and investment;

Recognizing the essential role of private investment, both domestic and foreign, in furthering growth, creating jobs, expanding trade, improving technology, and enhancing economic development;

Recognizing the increased importance of trade in services between their economies;

Taking into account the desirability of reducing non-tariff trade barriers in order to facilitate increased trade among the Parties;

Recognizing the importance of providing adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights and adherence to intellectual property rights norms in accordance 'Nith the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the Berne Convention on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, and any other intellectual property rights-related international agreements as applicable to the Parties;

Recognizing the importance of improving the observance and promotion of workers' rights to both countries' economic welfare; respecting, promoting and realizing in each Party's laws and practices the fundamental labor rights enumerated in the 110 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up (1998); and ensuring the effective enforcement by the Parties of their respective labor laws;

Recognizing the importance of protecting and preserving the environment in accordance with each Party's environmental laws, and desiring to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive in the furtherance of sustainable development;

Desiring to encourage and facilitate contacts between enterprises and other trade and investment related groups in each other's territories;

Acknowledging the desirability of resolving trade and investment matters between them as expeditiously as possible;

Desiring to reinforce the rules-based multilateral trading system embodied by the World Trade Organizaiion ("\VTO") by entering into mutually advantageous arrangements, in keeping with the \VTO Agreements;

Noting that the Patties are Members of the WTO and affmning that this Agreement is V'.ithout prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Parties under the agreements, understandings, and other instruments related to or concluded under the auspices of the \I/TO;

Noting the Treaty Between the United States of America and the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investment ("Bilateral Investment Treaty"), signed on March 12, 1986, behveen the Parties and affirming that this Agreement is without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Parties under the Bilateral Investment Treaty;

Seeking to create a mechanism for further dialogue on initiatives for expanding their trade and investment through enhanced cooperation and more comprehensive agreements,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article One.

The Patties affirm their desire to promote an attractive investment climate in both the countries and to expand and diversify trade in products and services between the Parties.

Article Two.

1. The Patties hereby establish a United States-Bangladesh Forum on Trade and Investment (the "Forum") comprising representatives of each Party. 'The Bangladesh side shall be chaired by the Ministry of Commerce; and the United States' side shall be chaired by the Office of the United States Trade Representative. Both Parties may be assisted by officials of other government entities as circumstances require.

2. The Forum shall meet at such times, in such places, and through such means as the Patties may agree. The Parties shall endeavor to meet no less than once a year.

Article Three.

The Forum shall:

1. monitor trade and investment relations between the Parties and identify opportunities for expanding trade and investment;

2. consider specific trade and investment matters of interest to the Parties;

3. identify and work to remove impediments to trade and investment between the Patties; and

4. seek the advice of the private sector and civil society, where appropriate, on matters related to the Forum's work.

Article Four.

Either Party may refer a specific trade or investment matter to the Forum by delivering a written request to the other Party that includes a description of the matter concerned. 1be Forum shall take up the matter promptly after the request is delivered unless the requesting Party agrees to postpone discussion of the matter. Each Party shall endeavor to provide an opportunity for the Forum to consider a matter before taking actions that could adversely affect trade or investment interests of the other Party.

Article Five.

This Agreement shall be without prejudice to the law of either Party or to the rights and obligations and privileges of either Party under any other agreement.

Article Six.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date that the Parties notify each other by exchange of letters that they have completed the internal procedures necessary to implement the Agreement. If the Parties do not notify each other on the same date, the Agreement shall enter into force on the date the later notification is made.

Article Seven.

Either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing vvritten notice of termination to the other Party. The termination shall take effect on a date the Parties agree or, if the Parties cannot agree, 180 days after the date of notification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the nndersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Washington, D.C., this 25th day of November 2013, in the English and Bangla languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Wendy Cutler

Acting Deputy United States Trade Representative

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH:

Mahbub Ahmed

Secretary, Ministry of Commerce