

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

The Kingdom of Norway and the....., hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"; Desiring to develop the economic cooperation between the Parties;

Desiring to encourage, create and maintain stable, equitable, favourable and transparent conditions for investors of one Party and their investments in the territory of the other Party on the basis of equality and mutual benefit;

Desiring to achieve these objectives in a manner consistent with the protection of health, safety, and the environment, and the promotion of internationally recognized labour rights;

Desiring to contribute to a stable framework for investment in order to maximize effective and sustainable utilization of economic resources and improve living standards;

Conscious that the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments in accordance with this Agreement will stimulate the business initiative;

Emphasising the importance of corporate social responsibility;

Recognising that the development of economic and business ties can promote respect for internationally recognised labour rights;

Reaffirming their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their obligations under international law, including the principles set out in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Recognising that the promotion of sustainable investments is critical for the further development of national and global economies as well as for the pursuit of national and global objectives for sustainable development, and understanding that the promotion of such investments requires cooperative efforts of investors, host governments and home governments;

Recognising that the provisions of this agreement and provisions of international agreements relating to the environment shall be interpreted in a mutually supportive manner;

Determined to prevent and combat corruption, including bribery, in international trade and investment;

Recognising the basic principles of transparency, accountability and legitimacy for all participants in foreign investment processes;

Have agreed as follows:

Section SECTION I - SCOPE AND APPLICATION!

Article 1. SCOPE

1. This Agreement applies to measures adopted or maintained by a Party, after the entry into force of this Agreement, relating to investors of the other Party or to investments of investors of the other Party. The Section [Dispute Settlement Provisions] does not apply to disputes arising out of events that have occurred before the entry into force of this Agreement, cf. Article ["Non-Retroactive Application"].

2. This Agreement applies to investments made prior to or after its entry into force.

3. This Agreement shall apply to the land territory, internal waters, and the territorial sea of a Party, and the airspace above the territory in accordance with international law.

4. This Agreement shall not apply to Svalbard, i.e. the land territory of the Archipelago, internal waters and the territorial sea of the Archipelago.

* In an EFTA Free Trade Agreement the geographical scope will be addressed under the horizontal part of the Agreement. The Article [Scope] and other provisions may also be amended to reflect that services is addressed in another part of the Agreement and for other technical purposes e.g. "another Party" instead of the other Party etc.

Article 2. DEFINITIONS

1. "Investor" Means:

i. a Natural Person Having the Nationality Of, or Permanent Residence In, a Party In accordance with Its Applicable Law; Or

ii. any entity established in accordance with, and recognised as a legal person by the law of a Party, and engaged in substantive business operations in the territory of that Party, such as companies, firms, associations, development finance institutions, foundations or similar entities irrespective of whether their liabilities are limited and whether or not their activities are directed at profit.

2. "Investment" means:

Every kind of asset owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by an investor of a Party, including, but not limited to:

i. any entity established in accordance with, and recognised as a legal person by the law of a Party, whether or not their activities are directed at profit;

ii. shares, stocks or other forms of equity participation in an enterprise, and rights derived therefrom;

iii. bonds, debentures, loans and other forms of debt, and rights derived therefrom;

iv. rights under contracts, including turnkey, construction, management, production or revenue-sharing;

v. contracts;

vi. claims to money and claims to performance;

vii. intellectual property rights;

viii. rights conferred pursuant to law or contract such as concessions, licenses, authorisations, and permits;

ix. any other tangible and intangible, movable and immovable property, and any related property rights, such as leases, mortgages, liens and pledges

In order to qualify as an investment under this Agreement, an asset must have the characteristics of an investment, such as the commitment of capital or other resources, the expectation of gain or profit, or the assumption of risk.

Section 2. TREATMENT AND PROTECTION OF INVESTORS AND INVESTMENTS

Article 3. NATIONAL TREATMENT

1. Each Party shall accord to investors of the other Party and to their investments, treatment no less favourable than the treatment it accords in like circumstances to its own investors and their investments, in relation to the establishment, acquisition, expansion, management, conduct, operation and disposal of investments.

2. National treatment shall not apply to the reservations set out in Annex [A].

Article 4. MOST-FAVOURED-NATION TREATMENT

1. Each Party shall accord to investors of the other Party and to their investments, treatment no less favourable than the treatment it accords in like circumstances to investors and their investments of any other State, subject to the country-specific reservations set out in Annex [B], in relation to the establishment, acquisition, expansion, management, conduct, operation and disposal of investments.

³ See footnote 2.

2. If a Party accords more favourable treatment to investors of any other State or their investments by virtue of a free trade agreement, customs union [or similar agreement that also provides for substantial liberalisation of investments] or by a labour market integration agreements, it shall not be obliged to accord such treatment to investors of the other Party or their investments. However, upon request from another Party, it shall afford adequate opportunity to negotiate the benefits granted therein.

3. For greater certainty, treatment referred to in paragraph [1] does not encompass dispute resolution mechanisms provided for in this Agreement or other International Agreements.

Article 5. GENERAL TREATMENT AND PROTECTION

Each Party shall accord to investors of the other Party, and their investments treatment in accordance with customary international law, including fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security.

Article 6. EXPROPRIATION

1. A Party shall not expropriate or nationalise an investment of an investor of the other Party except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

2. The preceding provision shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a Party to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

Article 7. COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES

1. Investors whose investments have suffered losses due to armed conflict or civil strife, shall benefit from treatment in accordance with Article [National treatment] and Article [MEN] as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or any other settlement it adopts or maintains relating to such losses.

2. [Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, an investor of a Party who, in any of the situations referred to in that paragraph, suffers a loss in the area of another Party resulting from

i, requisitioning of its investment or part thereof by the latter's forces or authorities, or

ii, destruction of its investment or part thereof by the latter's forces or authorities,

which was not required by the necessity of the situation, shall be accorded restitution or compensation

> Kan vere aktuell i forhandlinger med enkelte land

Article 8. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. No Party May Impose or Enforce Any of the Following Requirements, or Enforce Any commitment or undertaking in connection with the establishment, acquisition, expansion, management, conduct or operation of an investment of an investor of the other Party:

i, [to export a given level or percentage of goods or services;]

ii, [to achieve a given level or percentage of domestic content;]

iii, [to purchase, use or accord a preference to goods produced or services provided in its territory, or to purchase goods or services from persons in its territory;]

iv, [to relate in any way the volume or value of imports to the volume or value of exports or to the amount of foreign exchange inflows associated with such investment;]

v, [to restrict sales of goods or services in its territory that such investment produces or provides by relating such sales to the volume or value of its exports or foreign exchange earnings;]

vi, [to transfer technology, a production process or other proprietary knowledge to a natural or legal person in its territory, except when the requirement]

(a) is imposed or the commitment or undertaking is enforced by a court, administrative tribunal or competition authority to remedy an alleged violation of competition laws, or

(b) concerns the transfer of intellectual property and is undertaken in a manner not inconsistent with the TRIPS Agreement;]

vii, [to locate its headquarters for a specific region or the world market in the territory of that Party;]

viii, [to supply one or more of the goods that it produces or the services that it provides to a specific region or the world market exclusively from the territory of that Party;]

ix, [to achieve a given level or value of research and development in its territory;]

x, [to hire a given level of nationals;]

xi, [to achieve a minimum level of domestic equity participation other than nominal qualifying shares for directors or incorporators of corporations.]

2. A measure that requires an investment to use a technology to meet generally applicable health, safety or environmental requirements shall not be construed to be inconsistent with paragraph 1.

3. Performance requirements, other than those referred to in paragraph 1, shall only be applied in the public interest and shall be set forth in the national legislation of the Party imposing the requirement and published in the official gazette or otherwise be publicly available according to Article [Transparency] so that investors may become acquainted with them before the investment decision is made. All performance requirements shall be applied against all investors and their investments in a non-discriminatory, transparent and objective manner.

4. A Party may not apply new performance requirements to existing investments, or amend existing performance requirements in a manner restricting the commercial freedom of the investor, except where such requirements are at the same time made applicable to all other investors in that Party.

Article 9. TRANSFER

1. Each Party shall ensure that all payment relating to an investment of an investor of another Party may be freely transferred into and out of its territory without delay. Such transfers shall include, in particular, though not exclusively:

i, the initial capital and additional amounts to maintain or increase an investment;

ii, profits, interest, dividends, capital gains, royalties, fees and returns in kind;

- iii. payments made under a contract including a loan agreement;
 - iv. proceeds from the sale or liquidation of all or any part of an investment;
 - v. earnings and other remuneration of personnel engaged from abroad in connection with an investment.
2. Each Party shall further ensure that such transfers may be made in a freely convertible currency. Freely convertible currency means a currency that is widely traded in international foreign exchange markets and widely used in international transactions. Transfers shall be made at the market rate of exchange prevailing on the date of transfer.
3. It is understood that paragraphs 1 and 2 are without prejudice to the equitable, non-discriminatory and good faith application of measures:

- i. to protect the rights of creditors,
- ii. relating to or ensuring compliance with laws and regulations
 - (a) on the issuing, trading and dealing in securities, futures and derivatives,
 - (b) concerning reports or records of transfers, or
 - (c) concerning the payment of contributions or penalties.
 - (d) concerning financial security or any other equivalent regarding the prevention and remedying of environmental damage
- iii. in connection with criminal offences and orders or judgments in administrative and adjudicatory proceedings

Article 10. KEY PERSONNEL

1. Each Party shall, subject to its laws and regulations relating to the entry, stay and work of natural persons, grant natural persons of the other Party, and key personnel who are employed by natural or juridical persons of the other Party, temporary entry and stay in its territory in order to engage in activities connected with an investment, including the provision of advice or key technical services.
2. Each Party shall, subject to its laws and regulations, permit natural or legal/juridical persons of another Party to employ, in connection with an investment, any key personnel of the natural or legal/juridical person's choice provided that such key personnel has been permitted to enter, stay and work in its territory and that the employment concerned conforms to the terms, conditions and time limits of the permission granted to such key personnel.
3. The Parties shall, subject to their laws and regulations, grant temporary entry and stay and provide any necessary confirming documentation to the spouse and minor children of a natural person who has been granted temporary entry, stay and authorisation to work in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2. The spouse and minor children shall be admitted for the period of the stay of that person.

Article 11. NOT LOWERING STANDARDS

1. The Parties recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by relaxing domestic health, safety or environmental measures or core labour standards. Accordingly, a Party should not waive or otherwise derogate from, or offer to waive or otherwise derogate from, such measures as an encouragement for the establishment, acquisition, expansion or retention of an investment of an investor.
2. If a Party considers that the other Party has offered such an encouragement, it may request consultations under Article [Joint Committee].

Article 12. RIGHT TO REGULATE

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent a Party from adopting, maintaining or enforcing any measure otherwise consistent with this Agreement that it considers appropriate to ensure that investment activity is undertaken in a manner sensitive to health, safety or environmental concerns.

Section 3. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROVISIONS

Article 13. NON-RETROACTIVE APPLICATION

This Section does not apply to disputes arising out of events that have occurred before the entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 14. GOVERNING LAW

1. A Tribunal established under this Section shall make its award based on the provisions of this Agreement interpreted and applied in accordance with the rules of interpretation of international law.
2. An interpretation by the Joint Committee of a provision of this Agreement shall be binding on a Tribunal established under this Section.

A. DISPUTES BETWEEN A PARTY AND AN INVESTOR OF THE OTHER PARTY

Article 15. DISPUTES BETWEEN a PARTY AND AN INVESTOR OF THE OTHER PARTY

1. This Article applies to legal disputes between a Party and an investor of the other Party arising directly out of an investment of the latter that falls under the jurisdiction of the former. The dispute must be based on a claim that the Party has breached an obligation under this Agreement and that the investor of the other Party has incurred loss or damage by that breach.
2. Any dispute under this Article shall, if possible, be settled amicably. The Party and an investor of the other Party should initially seek to resolve the dispute through consultation.
3. If any such dispute should arise and either
- i. agreement cannot be reached between the parties to this dispute within 36 months from its submission to a local court for the purpose of pursuing local remedies, after having exhausted any administrative remedies; or
 - ii. there are no reasonably available local remedies to provide effective redress of this dispute, or the local remedies provide no reasonable possibility of such redress,
- [and,
- iii. the investor has provided a clear and unequivocal waiver of any right to pursue the matter before local courts,]

then each Party hereby consents to the submission of such dispute to arbitration under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States opened for signature at Washington on 18 March 1965 (ICSID Convention) in accordance with the provisions of this Article. The consent and the submission of the dispute by an investor under this Article shall be considered to satisfy the requirements of Article 25 of the ICSID Convention [ICSID Additional Facility Rules, with the approval of the Agreement by the Secretary General to ICSID].

4. [An investor may not submit a dispute for resolution according to paragraph [3] if more than ten years have elapsed from the date the investor first acquired knowledge of the events giving rise to the claim.]

5. Each request for arbitration shall include information sufficient to present clearly the issues in dispute so as to allow the Parties and the public to become acquainted with them. All requests for arbitration shall be made publicly available by the Parties and by ICSID.

Article 16. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURAL ISSUES

The Tribunal shall, as appropriate, take into account the principles of res judicata and lis pendens, in accordance with international law, to hinder abuse of rights under this agreement, as well as otherwise exercising sound judicial economy. If all parties to the dispute so agree, the Tribunal may consolidate claims.

Article 17. THE AWARD

1. Any arbitral award rendered pursuant to Article [Disputes between a Party and an Investor of the other Party], shall be final and binding on the Parties to the dispute.
2. Where a Tribunal makes an award against a Party pursuant to Article [Disputes between a Party and an Investor of the other Party], the Tribunal may only award monetary damages, including applicable interest, as well as costs in accordance with the applicable arbitration rules.
3. All awards and substantive decisions of the Tribunal shall be made publicly available.
4. The costs of arbitration shall in principle be borne by the unsuccessful Party. However, the Tribunal may apportion such costs between the Parties if it determines that apportionment is reasonable, taking into account the circumstances of the case.

Article 18. PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCEEDINGS

1. The Party complained against shall, within 30 days after receiving a request for arbitration, notify the other Party in writing and transmit a copy of the request.
 - .. The Tribunal shall give the other Party the opportunity to:
 - i, be present at the substantive meetings of the Tribunal with the parties to the dispute preceding, except for portions of such meetings when confidential information designated as such by the Party that submitted it is discussed;
 - ii. make a written submission prior to the first oral hearing; and
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- iii. make an oral presentation to the Tribunal at the first oral hearing;
provided that it has informed the Tribunal no later than [30 days] after the establishment of the Tribunal of its desire to participate in the proceedings.
- . The Tribunal shall have the authority to accept and consider written amicus curiae submissions from a person or entity that is not a disputing Party, provided that the Tribunal has determined that they are directly relevant to the factual and legal issues under consideration. The Tribunal shall ensure an opportunity for the parties to the dispute, and to the other Party, to submit comments on the written amicus curiae observations.
- . The Tribunal shall reflect submissions from the other Party and from amicus curiae in its report.

Article 19. TRANSPARENCY OF PROCEEDINGS

- . All documents submitted to, or issued by, the Tribunal shall immediately be made publicly available by the Tribunal.
- . When submitting information to the Tribunal, a Party to the dispute may designate specific information as confidential if the information
 - i, is not generally known or accessible to the public, and
2. The Tribunal shall give the other Party the opportunity to:
 - i, be present at the substantive meetings of the Tribunal with the parties to the dispute preceding, except for portions of such meetings when confidential information designated as such by the Party that submitted it is discussed;
 - ii. make a written submission prior to the first oral hearing; and
 - iii. make an oral presentation to the Tribunal at the first oral hearing;
provided that it has informed the Tribunal no later than [30 days] after the establishment of the Tribunal of its desire to participate in the proceedings.
3. The Tribunal shall have the authority to accept and consider written amicus curiae submissions from a person or entity that is not a disputing Party, provided that the Tribunal has determined that they are directly relevant to the factual and legal issues under consideration. The Tribunal shall ensure an opportunity for the parties to the dispute, and to the other Party, to submit comments on the written amicus curiae observations.
4. The Tribunal shall reflect submissions from the other Party and from amicus curiae in its report.

Article 19. TRANSPARENCY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. All documents submitted to, or issued by, the Tribunal shall immediately be made publicly available by the Tribunal.
2. When submitting information to the Tribunal, a Party to the dispute may designate specific information as confidential if the information
 - i, is not generally known or accessible to the public, and
 - ii. if disclosed would cause or threaten to cause prejudice to an essential interest of any individual or entity, or to the interest of a Party.
Such information shall be treated as confidential and shall only be made available to the parties to the dispute and to the other Party.
3. If another Party objects to the designation of information as confidential, the Tribunal shall decide if the designation meets the above mentioned criteria. If the Tribunal considers that the information does not meet the criteria, the Party submitting the information may
 - i, withdraw the information, or
 - ii. withdraw the designation of the information as confidential.
4. The Tribunal shall conduct hearings open to the public and shall determine, in consultation with the disputing parties, the appropriate logistical arrangements.

Part B.. DISPUTES BETWEEN THE PARTIES

Article 20. DISPUTES BETWEEN THE PARTIES

1. Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall, whenever possible, be settled amicably through consultations in the Joint Committee.
2. If the Parties are unable to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of a matter through consultations, they may have recourse to good offices or to mediation or conciliation under such rules and procedures as they may agree.
3. A Party may not initiate arbitration against the other Party under paragraph 4 of this Article unless the former Party has requested consultations and has afforded the other Party a consultation period of no less than 60 days after the date of the receipt of the request.
4. Either Party that has complied with the consultation requirement of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, may submit a dispute between them as to whether one of them has acted in contravention of this Agreement to final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Permanent Court of Arbitration Optional Rules for Arbitrating Disputes between Two States, as in effect on the date of this Agreement.
5. The place of the arbitration proceedings shall be The Hague, The Netherlands.
6. The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English.

7. The appointing authority shall be the Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

8. Nothing in the present Article impairs the right of the Parties to agree at any time to settle a dispute between them concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement by any peaceful means of their own choice.

Article 21. TRANSPARENCY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. All documents submitted to, or issued by, the Tribunal shall be made publicly available by the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, except for confidential information contained therein.

2. The Tribunal shall conduct hearings open to the public and shall determine, in consultation with the disputing parties, the appropriate logistical arrangements. The arbitral tribunal, after hearing the parties, may decide to close the hearings wholly or partially.

3. The Tribunal shall have the authority to accept and consider written amicus curiae submissions from a person or entity that is not a disputing Party, provided that the tribunal has determined that they are directly relevant to the factual and legal issues under consideration.

4. When submitting information to the Tribunal, a Party may designate specific information as confidential if the information

i. is not generally known or accessible to the public, and

ii. if disclosed would cause or threaten to cause [serious] prejudice to an essential interest of any individual or entity [lawfully in control of the information]

Such information shall not be disclosed and be treated in accordance with procedures to be established by the Tribunal for each particular case.

5. If another Party objects to the designation of information as confidential, the Tribunal shall decide if the designation meets the above mentioned criteria. If the Tribunal considers that the information does not meet the criteria, the Party submitting the information may

i. withdraw the information, or

ii. withdraw the designation of the information as confidential

Part C. SUBROGATION

Article 22. SUBROGATION

1. If the investments of an investor are insured against non-commercial risks, any subrogation of the claims of the investor pursuant to this Agreement, shall be recognized by the other Party.

2. Disputes between a Party and an insurer shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of [Annex C] of this Agreement.

Section 4. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 23. THE JOINT COMMITTEE

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee composed of representatives of the Parties.

2. The Joint Committee shall meet whenever necessary. Each Party may request at any time, through a notice in writing to the other Party, that a meeting of the Joint Committee be held. The request shall provide sufficient information to understand the basis for the request, including, where relevant, identification of issues in dispute. Such a meeting shall take place within 60 days of receipt of the request, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

3. The Joint Committee shall:

i. supervise the implementation of this Agreement;

ii. in accordance with Article [Disputes between the Parties], endeavour to resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;

iii. review the possibility of further removal of barriers to investment;

iv. where relevant, suggest to the Parties ways to enhance and promote investment action;

v. review investments covered by this Agreement;

vi. review case-law of investment arbitration tribunals relevant to the implementation of this Agreement;

vii. oversee the further elaboration of this Agreement;

viii. where relevant, discuss issues related to corporate social responsibility, the preservation of the environment, public health and safety, the goal of sustainable development, anticorruption, employment and human rights, and

ix. consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement

4. Where appropriate, the Joint Committee may:

i. decide to amend the Agreement, as set forth in Article [Amendments]; and

ii. interpret this Agreement, bearing in mind that this competence shall not be used to undermine the amendment provisions of Article [Amendments]. The Joint Committee should refrain from adopting interpretations of provisions already submitted to a Tribunal in a dispute between a Party and an Investor of the other Party.

5. The Joint Committee may take decisions as provided for in this Agreement. On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations. Decisions and recommendations shall be made by consensus.

6. The Joint Committee shall establish its rules of procedure.

Section 5. EXCEPTIONS

Article 24. GENERAL EXCEPTIONS

Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between investments or between investors, or a disguised restriction on international [trade or] investment, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent a Party from adopting or enforcing measures necessary:

For greater certainty, the concept of "necessity" in this Article shall include measures taken by a Party as provided for by the precautionary principle, including the principle of precautionary action.

i. to protect public morals or to maintain public order;

7 The public order exception may be invoked only where a genuine and sufficiently serious threat is posed to one of the fundamental interests of society

ii. to protect human, animal or plant life or health;

iii. to secure compliance with laws and regulations that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement;

iv. for the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value; or

v. for the protection of the environment

Article 25. PRUDENTIAL REGULATION

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, a Party shall not be prevented from taking measures for prudential reasons, including for the protection of investors, depositors, policy holders or persons to whom a fiduciary duty is owed by a financial service supplier, to ensure the integrity and stability of the financial system, or to enhance market competition, including ownership control and limitation.

Where such measures do not conform with the provisions of the Agreement, they shall not be used as a means of avoiding the Party's commitments or obligations under the Agreement.

Article 26. SECURITY EXCEPTIONS

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed:

- i. to require any Party to furnish any information, the disclosure of which it considers contrary to its essential security interests; or
- ii. to prevent any Party from taking any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests:
 - (a) relating to investment in defence and security sector[s];
 - (b) relating to fissionable and fusionable materials or the materials from which they are derived;
 - (c) taken in time of war or other emergency in international relations; or
- iii. to prevent any Party from taking any action in pursuance of its obligations for the maintenance of international peace and security, including under the United Nations Charter.

Article 27. CULTURAL EXCEPTIONS

The provisions of this Agreement shall not apply to a Party's laws and measures specifically designed to preserve and promote linguistic and cultural diversity, cultural and audiovisual policy, as well as rights and obligations of the Parties under international agreements and national laws and measures relating to copyright and related rights.

Article 28. TAXATION

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the imposition, enforcement or collection of direct or indirect taxes imposed by a Party.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall create any right to any benefit under an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation concluded by a Party.
3. Any dispute as to whether paragraphs 1 and 2 apply, may only be brought before the Competent Tax Authorities of the Parties according to the procedure of Article [The Joint Committee] or the national courts or appeal organs of a Party, and shall not be covered by Section [Dispute Settlement Provisions] of this Agreement.
4. If the Competent Tax Authority of one of the Parties, after the procedure of Article [The Joint Committee] has been completed, does not agree that paragraph 1 above apply, but takes the position that the case should be considered under Article [Expropriation], then the dispute shall be covered by [Section [Dispute Settlement Provisions] of this Agreement.]

Section 6. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 29. RELATION TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The provisions of this Agreement shall be without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Parties under other international agreements.

Article 30. REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Each Party is fully responsible for the observance of all obligations and commitments under this Agreement by its respective regional and local governments and authorities, and by non-governmental bodies in the exercise of governmental powers delegated to them by central, regional and local governments or authorities.

Article 31. TRANSPARENCY

1. The Parties shall publish their laws, or otherwise make publicly available their laws, regulations and administrative rulings and judicial decisions of general application-as well as their respective international agreements that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall promptly respond to specific questions and provide, upon request, information to each other on matters referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 32. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Parties agree to encourage investors to conduct their investment activities in compliance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and to participate in the United Nations Global Compact.

Article 33. AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Agreement, decided by the Joint Committee in accordance with Article [Joint Committee], shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the Parties.
2. Amendments shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the date of receipt of the last notification by a Party informing the other Party that its internal constitutional requirements have been fulfilled.

Article 34. ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Agreement is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the receipt of the last notification informing the other Party that the internal constitutional requirements have been fulfilled.

Article 35. DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. Each Party to this Agreement may, by means of a written notification to the other Party, terminate this Agreement. The termination shall take effect on the first day of the [X] month after the date on which the notification was received by the other Party.
2. In respect of investments made prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall remain in force for a further period of fifteen years from that date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

Done at, this... of ww. 200x in duplicate [in the English, Norwegian and [XXX] languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the For the Kingdom of Norway

A. RESERVATIONS/EXCEPTIONS FROM NATIONAL TREATMENT

