Agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Austria for the Promotion and Protection of Investments

THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AND THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN hereinafter referred to as "Contracting Parties",

DESIRING to create favourable conditions for greater economic co-operation between the Contracting Parties,

RECOGNIZING that the promotion and protection of investments may strengthen the readiness for such investments and hereby make an important contribution to the development of economic relations,

REAFFIRMING their commitment to the observance of internationally recognized labour standards,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Chapter One. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement

(1) "investor of a Contracting Party" means:

(a) A natural person having the nationality of a Contracting Party in accordance with its applicable law, or

(b) An enterprise which is a legal person or any entity constituted or organized under the applicable law of a Contracting Party, whether or not for profit, and whether private or government owned or controlled, including a corporation, trust, partnership, sole proprietorship, branch, joint venture, association or organization making or having made an investment in the other Contracting Party's territory.

(2) "investment by an investor of a Contracting Party" means every kind of asset in the territory of one Contracting Party, owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by an investor of the other Contracting Party, in accordance with the applicable law of the first Contracting Party, including:

(a) Shares, stocks and other forms of equity participation in an enterprise, and rights derived therefrom;

(b) Bonds, debentures, loans and other forms of debt and rights derived therefrom;

(c) Rights under contracts, including turnkey, construction, management, production or revenue-sharing contracts;

(d) Claims to money and claims to performance pursuant to a contract having an economic value;

(e) Intellectual property rights as defined in the multilateral agreements concluded under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, including copyrights, trademarks, patents, industrial designs and technical processes, know-how, trade secrets, trade names and goodwill;

(f) Rights conferred by law or contract such as concessions, licenses, authorisations or permits to undertake an economic activity;

(g) Any other tangible or intangible, movable or immovable property, or any related property rights, such as leases, mortgages, liens, pledges or usufructs.

(3) "returns" means the amounts yielded by an investment and, in particular, profits, interests, capital gains, dividends, royalties, license fees and other fees.

(4) "without delay" means such period as is normally required for the completion of necessary formalities for the payments of compensation or for the transfer of payments. This period shall commence for payments of compensation on the day of

expropriation and for transfers of payments on the day on which the request for transfer has been submitted. It shall in no case exceed one month.

(5) "territory" means with respect to each Contracting Party the land territory, internal waters, maritime and airspace under its sovereignity, including the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf where the Contracting Party exercises, in conformity with international law, sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

Article 2. Promotion and Admission of Investments

(1) Each Contracting Party shall, according to its laws and regulations, promote and admit investments by investors of the other Contracting Party.

(2) The legal extension, alteration or transformation of an investment is to be considered a new investment.

Article 3. Treatment of Investments

(1) Each Contracting Party shall accord to investments by investors of the other Contracting Party fair and equitable treatment and full and constant protection and security.

(2) A Contracting Party shall not impair by unreasonable or discriminatory measures the management, operation, maintenance, use, enjoyment, sale and liquidation of an investment by investors of the other Contracting Party.

(3) Each Contracting Party shall accord to investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments treatment no less favourable than that it accords to its own investors and their investments or to investors of any third country and their investments with respect to the management, operation, maintenance, use, enjoyment, sale and liquidation of an investment, whichever is more favourable to the investor.

(4) No provision of this Agreement shall be construed as to oblige a Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments the present or future benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from

(a) Any membership in a free trade area, customs union, common market, economic community or any multilateral agreement on investment,

(b) Any international agreement, international arrangement or domestic legislation regarding taxation.

Article 4. Transparency

(1) Each Contracting Party shall promptly publish, or otherwise make publicly available, its laws, regulations, procedures as well as international agreements which may affect the operation of the Agreement.

(2) Each Contracting Party shall promptly respond to specific questions and provide, upon request, information to the other Contracting Party on matters referred to in paragraph (1).

(3) No Contracting Party shall be required to furnish or allow access to information concerning particular investors or investments the disclosure of which would impede law enforcement or would be contrary to its laws and regulations protecting confidentiality.

Article 5. Expropriation and Compensation

(1) A Contracting Party shall not expropriate or nationalise directly or indirectly an investment of an investor of the other Contracting Party or take any measures having equivalent effect (hereinafter referred to as expropriation) except:

(a) For a purpose which is in the public interest,

(b) On a non-discriminatory basis,

(c) In accordance with due process of law, and

(d) Accompanied by payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) below.paragraphs (2) and (3) below.

(2) Compensation shall:

(a) Be paid without delay. In case of delay any exchange rate loss arising from this delay shall be borne by the host country.

(b) Be equivalent to the fair market value of the expropriated investment immediately before the expropriation occurred. The fair market value shall not reflect any change in value occurring because the expropriation had become publicly known earlier.

(c) Be paid and made freely transferable to the country designated by the claimants concerned and in the currency of the country of which the claimants are nationals or in any freely convertible currency accepted by the claimants.

(d) Include interest at a commercial rate established on a market basis for the currency of payment from the date of expropriation until the date of actual payment.

(3) Due process of law includes the right of an investor of a Contracting Party which claims to be affected by expropriation by the other Contracting Party to prompt review of its case, including the valuation of its investment and the payment of compensation in accordance with the provisions of this Article, by a judicial authority or another competent and independent authority of the latter Contracting Party.

Article 6. Compensation for Losses

(1) An investor of a Contracting Party which has suffered a loss relating to its investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party due to war or to other armed conflict, state of emergency, revolution, insurrection, civil disturbance, or any other similar event, or acts of God or force majeure, in the territory of the latter Contracting Party, shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or any other settlement, treatment no less favourable than that which it accords to its own investors or to investors of any third state, whichever is more favourable to the investor concerned.

(2) An investor of a Contracting Party who in any of the events referred to in paragraph (1) suffers loss resulting from:

(a) Requisitioning of its investment or part thereof by the forces or authorities of the other Contracting Party, or

(b) Destruction of its investment or part thereof by the forces or authorities of the other Contracting Party, which was not required by the necessity of the situation,

Shall in any case be accorded by the latter Contracting Party restitution or compensation which in either case shall be prompt, adequate and effective and, with respect to compensation, shall be in accordance with Article 5 paragraphes (2) and (3).

Article 7. Transfers

(1) Each Contracting Party shall guarantee that all payments relating to an investment by an investor of the other Contracting Party may be freely transferred into and out of its territory without delay. Such transfers shall include, in particular:

(a) The initial capital and additional amounts to maintain or increase an investment;

(b) Returns;

(c) Payments made under a contract including a loan agreement;

(d) Proceeds from the sale or liquidation of all or any part of an investment;

(e) Payments of compensation under Articles 5 and 6;

(f) Payments arising out of the settlement of a dispute;

(g) Earnings and other remuneration of personnel engaged from abroad in connection with an investment.

(2) Each Contracting Party shall further guarantee that such transfers may be made in a freely convertible currency at the market rate of exchange prevailing on the date of transfer in the territory of the Contracting Party from which the transfer is made.

(3) In the absence of a market for foreign exchange, the rate to be used shall be the most recent exchange rate for conversion of currencies into Special Drawing Rights.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) (b) a Contracting Party may restrict the transfer of a return in kind in circumstances where

the Contracting Party is permitted under the GATT 1994 to restrict or prohibit the exportation or the sale for export of the product constituting the return in kind. Nevertheless, a Contracting Party shall ensure that transfers of returns in kind may be effected as authorised or specified in an investment agreement, investment authorisation, or other written agreement between the Contracting Party and an investor or investment of the other Contracting Party.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) to (4), a Contracting Party may prevent a transfer through the equitable, non-discriminatory and good faith application of measures to protect the rights of creditors, relating to or ensuring compliance with laws and regulations on the issuing, trading and dealing in securities, futures and derivatives, reports or records of transfer, or in connection with criminal offences and orders or judgements in administrative and adjudicatory proceedings, provided that such measures and their application shall not be used as a means of avoiding the Contracting Party's commitments or obligations under this Agreement.

Article 8. Subrogation

(1) If a Contracting Party or its designated agency makes a payment under an indemnity, guarantee or contract of insurance given in respect of an investment by an investor in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the latter Contracting Party shall recognize the assignment of any right or claim of such investor to the former Contracting Party or its designated agency and the right of the former Contracting Party or its designated agency to exercise by virtue of subrogation any such right and claim to the same extent as its predecessor in title.

(2) In case one Contracting Party has made a payment to one of its investors and has taken over the rights and claims of the investor, that investor shall not unless authorized to act on behalf of the Contracting Party making the payment, pursue those rights and claims against the other Contracting Party.

Article 9. Other Obligations

Each Contracting Party shall observe any obligation it may have entered into with regard to specific investments by investors of the other Contracting Party.

Article 10. Denial of Benefits

A Contracting Party may deny the benefits of this Agreement to an investor of the other Contracting Party and to its investments, if investors of a Non-Contracting Party own or control the first mentioned investor and that investor has no substantial business activity in the territory of the Contracting Party under whose law it is constituted or organized.

Chapter Two. Dispute Settlement

Part One. Settlement of Disputes between an Investor and a Contracting Party

Article 11. Scope and Standing

This Part applies to disputes between a Contracting Party and an investor of the other Contracting Party concerning an alleged breach of an obligation of the former under this Agreement which causes loss or damage to the investor or its investment.

Article 12. Means of Settlement, Time Periods

Such a dispute should, if possible, be settled by negotiation or consultation. If it is not so settled, the investor may choose to submit it for resolution:

(a) To the competent courts or administrative tribunals of the Contracting Party, party to the dispute;

(b) In accordance with any applicable previously agreed dispute settlement procedure, or

(c) In accordance with this Article to:

(i) The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes ("the Centre"), established pursuant to the Convention of the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States ("the ICSID Convention"), if the

Contracting Party of the investor and the Contracting Party, party to the dispute, are both parties to the ICSID Convention;

(ii) A sole arbitrator or an ad hoc arbitration tribunal established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ("UNCITRAL");

(iii) The International Chamber of Commerce, by a sole arbitrator or an ad hoc tribunal under its rules of arbitration.

Article 13. Contracting Party Consent

(1) Each Contracting Party hereby gives its unconditional consent to the submission of a dispute to international arbitration in accordance with this Part.

(2) The consent referred to in paragraph (1) implies the renunciation of the requirement that the internal administrative or juridical remedies should be exhausted.

(3) The investor may choose to submit the dispute for resolution according to Article 12 (c) only until there has been a decision in the first instance in the proceedings according to Article 12 (a).

Article 14. Place of Arbitration

Any arbitration under this Part shall, at the request of any party to the dispute, be held in a state that is party of the New York Convention. Claims submitted to arbitration under this Part shall be considered to arise out of a commercial relationship or transaction for purposes of Article 1 of the New York Convention.

Article 15. Indemnification

A Contracting Party shall not assert as a defence, counter-claim, right of set-off or for any other reason, that indemnification or other compensation for all or part of the alleged damages has been received or will be received pursuant to an indemnity, guarantee or insurance contract.

Article 16. Applicable Law

(1) A tribunal established under this Part shall decide the dispute in accordance with this Agreement and applicable rules and principles of international law.

(2) Issues in dispute under Article 9 shall be decided, absent other agreement, in accordance with the law of the Contracting Party, party to the dispute, the law governing the authorization or agreement and such rules of international law as may be applicable.

Article 17. Awards and Enforcement

(1) Arbitration awards, which may include an award of interest, shall be final and binding upon the parties to the dispute and may provide the following forms of relief:

(a) A declaration that the Contracting Party has failed to comply with its obligations under this Agreement;

(b) Pecuniary compensation, which shall include interest from the time the loss or damage was incurred until time of payment;

(c) Restitution in kind in appropriate cases, provided that the Contracting Party may pay pecuniary compensation in lieu thereof where restitution is not practicable; and

(d) With the Agreement of the parties to the dispute, any other form of relief.

(2) Each Contracting Party shall make provision for the effective enforcement of awards made pursuant to this Article and shall carry out without delay any such award issued in a proceeding to which it is party.

Part Two. Settlement of Disputes between the Contracting Parties

Article 18. Scope, Consultations, Mediation and Conciliation

Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably or through consultations, mediation or conciliation.

Article 19. Initiation of Proceedings

(1) If a dispute according to Article 18 cannot be settled within six months, it shall upon the request of either Contracting Party be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.

(2) A Contracting Party may not initiate proceedings under this Part for a dispute regarding the infringement of rights of an investor which that investor has submitted to arbitration under Part One of Chapter Two of this Agreement, unless the other Contracting Party has failed to abide by and comply with the award rendered in that dispute or those proceedings have terminated without resolution by an arbitral tribunal of the investor's claim.

Article 20. Formation of the Tribunal

(1) The arbitral tribunal shall be constituted ad hoc as follows: each Contracting Party shall appoint one arbitrator and these two arbitrators shall agree upon a national of a third State as their chairman. Such arbitrators shall be appointed within two (2) months from the date one Contracting Party has informed the other Contracting Party of its intention to submit the dispute to an arbitral tribunal, the chairman of which shall be appointed within two (2) further months.

(2) If the periods specified in paragraph (1) of this Article are not observed, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other relevant arrangement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make the necessary appointments. If the President of the International Court of Justice is a national of either of the Contracting Parties or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-president or in case of his inability the member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority should be invited under the same conditions to make the necessary appointments.

(3) Members of an arbitral tribunal shall be independent and impartial.

Article 21. Applicable Law, Default Rules

(1) The arbitral tribunal will decide disputes in accordance with this Agreement and the applicable rules and principles of international law.

(2) Unless the parties to the dispute decide otherwise, the Permanent Court of Arbitration Optional Rules for Arbitrating Disputes shall apply to matters not governed by other provisions of this Part.

Article 22. Awards

(1) The tribunal, in its award, shall set out its findings of law and fact, together with the reasons therefore, and may, at the request of a Party, award the following forms of relief:

(a) A declaration that an action of a Party is in contravention of its obligations under this Agreement;

(b) A recommendation that a Party brings its actions into conformity with its obligations under this Agreement;

(c) Pecuniary compensation for any loss or damage to the requesting Party's investor or its investment or

(d) Any other form of relief to which the Party against whom the award is made consents, including restitution in kind to an investor.

(2) The arbitration award shall be final and binding upon the Parties to the dispute.

Article 23. Costs

Each Party shall pay the cost of its representation in the proceedings. The cost of the tribunal shall be paid for equally by the Parties unless the tribunal directs that they be shared differently.

Article 24. Enforcement

Pecuniary awards which have not been complied with within one year from the date of the award may be enforced in the courts of either Contracting Party with jurisdiction over assets of the defaulting Party.

Chapter Three. Final Provisions

Article 25. Application of the Agreement

(1) This Agreement shall apply to investments made in the territory of either Contracting Party in accordance with its legislation by investors of the other Contracting Party prior as well as after the entry into force of this Agreement.

(2) This Agreement shall not apply to claims which have been settled or procedures which have been initiated prior to its entry into force.

Article 26. Consultations

Each Contracting Party may propose to the other Contracting Party to hold consultations on any matter relating to this Agreement. These consultations shall be held at a place and at a time agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Article 27. Entry Into Force and Duration

(1) The Contracting Parties shall notify each other when the conditions required by the national legislation for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled. The Agreement shall enter into force sixty days after the date of the latter notification.

(2) This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of 10 years; it shall be extended thereafter for an indefinite period and may be denounced in writing through diplomatic channels by either Contracting Party giving twelve months' notice.

(3) In respect of investments made prior to the date of termination of the present Agreement the provisions of Articles 1 to 25 of the present Agreement shall continue to be effective for a further period of 10 years from the date of termination of the present Agreement.

DONE at Vienna, on 23, January 2001, in duplicate, in the German, Arabic and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Republic of Austria:

Benita Ferrero-Waldner

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

Wasif Azar