FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR TRADE, ECONOMIC, INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (''the GCC"). whose Member States are the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman. the State of Qatar, and the State of Kuwait) ("the GCC Member States"), and

the Government of the United States of America ("the United States"),

hereinafter referred to collectively as ''the Parties," and individually as "a Party":

Desiring to develop and enhance the economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between them on the basis of equality and mutual benefits;

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the friendly relations existing between them;

Taking into consideration their respective laws and regulations;

Seeking to create a mechanism for further dialogue on initiatives for expanding their trade by identifying relevant issues for particular engagement;

Reaffirming their commitment to adopting and maintaining internationally recognized fundamental labor rights as stated in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up (1998) in their respective laws, regulations and practices and to ensuring the effective enforcement of those laws and regulations; and

Recognizing the importance of protecting and preserving the environment in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, and desiring to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive in furtherance of sustainable development;

Have concluded the following Framework Agreement:

Article One.

The Parties shall consider possible opportunities for promoting all aspects of economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between them, and for encouraging the exchange of information and necessary technical expertise in those fields on mutually agreed terms.

Article Two.

The Parties shall consider possible opportunities for expanding and liberalizing their trade relations, including the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment. taking into account their international obligations, including those of the World Trade Organization. and intend to pursue such opportunities. where appropriate.

Article Three.

The Parties shall consider possible opportunities for expanding exchanges between them through:

- Enhancing the exchange of information on trade and investment issues;

- Considering means to publish or otherwise make the Parties' respective laws and regulations on investment available to

the public;

- Encouraging business communications particularly between the institutions and organizations concerned with trade and investment;

- Considering means to promote an open and predictable environment for international trade and investment, including by strengthening the rule of law and promoting transparent and corruption-free public institutions;

- Considering possible exploratory discussions on the conditions necessary for more comprehensive reduction or elimination of barriers to trade and investment between them;

- Considering means to facilitate training and development of national human resources in various economic sectors;

- Considering means to facilitate scientific and academic exchanges in economic fields; and

- Facilitating private sector partnerships and appropriate opportunities for voluntary technology transfer.

Article Four.

The Parties shall consider possible opportunities for facilitating and promoting international investment in the various sectors of their respective economies, including with respect to goods and services, with a view to improving technology, creating jobs and furthering economic growth in their respective economies.

Article Five.

The Parties shall encourage exchanges of representatives, delegations and economic, commercial, and technical missions between them and consider means to facilitate such exchanges.

Article Six.

The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee for trade, economic, investment and technical cooperation (TEITC) under this Agreement. The Committee shall convene alternately in the countries of the two Parties on a regular basis or when necessary. The two Parties shall mutually agree on level of representation within 6 months after entry into force of this Agreement.

The functions of the Joint Committee shall include the following:

- Considering and adopting recommendations for enhancing economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between the Parties. fostering their economic relations and increasing the volume of trade and investment between the United States and the GCC;

- Considering possible opportunities for promoting international investment between the Parties and facilitating the resolution of concerns regarding investment;

- Ensuring implementation of the provisions of this Agreement and other agreements or protocols made between the Parties based on this Agreement; and

- Considering any trade and investment-related matters as the Parties may decide.

The Joint Committee is authorized to set up any subcommittees or specialized working teams, at its discretion and when deemed necessary. The Joint Committee shall specify the duties and functions of such subcommittees and working teams. The subcommittees and working teams shall submit their reports and recommendations to the Joint Committee.

Article Seven.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the GCC Charter and those of the GCC Economic Agreement, this Agreement and any measures taken hereunder, shall in no way affect the authority of GCC Member States to individually undertake bilateral activities with the United States in the fields covered by this Agreement or conclude bilateral agreements with the United States.

This Agreement and any measures taken hereunder, shall in no way affect the authority of the United States to undertake bilateral activities with individual GCC Member States in the fields covered by this Agreement or conclude bilateral agreements with individual GCC Member States.

This Agreement is without prejudice to the rights and obligations under prior bilateral agreements signed by the GCC Member States and the United States (1). Those agreements will continue to provide fora for the GCC Member States and the United States to address issues that remain within the competency of the GCC Member States.

(1) These bilateral agreements include the United Arab Emirates-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement signed March 15, 2004; the Bahrain-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement signed June 18,2002; the Saudi Arabia-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement signed July 31,2003; the Oman-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement signed July 7, 2004; the Qatar-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement signed March 19, 2004; the Kuwait-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement signed February 6, 2004; the Bahrain-United States Free Trade Agreement signed September 14,2004; and the Oman-United States Free Trade Agreement signed January 19,2006.

Article Eight.

The provisions of this Agreement may be amended with the mutual consent of the Parties.

Article Nine.

The Parties shall consult on any matter arising from implementation of the provisions of this agreement with a view to amicably resolving any questions or concerns on the part of one or more Parties.

Article Ten.

The two Parties shall notify each other in writing of the finalization of any necessary internal legal procedures for entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the delivery of the last written notification to the other Party. This Agreement shall remain valid unless either Party notifies the other Party in writing, at least six months prior to the termination date, of its intention to terminate the Agreement. If the Parties terminate this Agreement, such termination shall not affect the validity or duration of any agreements or projects or activities made under the present Agreement until such agreements or projects, or activities are completed.

Article Eleven.

This Agreement was done in the Arabic and English languages, the two texts being equally authentic. Signed in the city of New York, New York, on 25 of September, 2012.

For and on Behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Current President of the GCC Ministerial Counsel

Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

For and on Behalf of the Government of the United States of America