

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**between**

**the Federal Department of Economic  
Affairs of the Swiss Confederation**

**and**

**the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and  
Social Affairs of the Socialist Republic of  
Viet Nam**

**Regarding bilateral cooperation on  
labour and employment issues**

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereafter referred to as the "Parties")

*Desiring to consolidate and strengthen the social and political ties based on the longstanding friendly relationship between Switzerland and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;*

*Recognizing that sound labour policies and practices are a crucial element of sustainable development and essential for economic prosperity and that bilateral cooperation on labour and employment issues between the two countries actively contributes to this goal;*

*Considering and reaffirming the commitment to the objectives of the International Labour Organization [hereafter ILO], of which both nations are members, including the engagement in the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation, and convinced that bilateral cooperation on labour and employment issues is complementary to the engagement in the ILO and will contribute to the realization of the objectives of the latter,*

Have reached the following understanding:

#### **Article 1: Purpose**

The Parties agree to develop and collaborate in cooperative activities on labour and employment issues of mutual interest at the national and international level in order to deepen the understanding of each other's systems, promote decent work and contribute to the advancement of their economies.

#### **Article 2: Areas of cooperation**

2.1. The Parties will jointly identify and decide on the subject and contents of cooperative activities in line with the mutual interest and to the mutual benefit of the Parties.

2.2. Cooperative activities may, inter alia, take place in the following fields:

2.2.1. International labour and employment issues of mutual interest, notably within the context of the ILO and other forums or organizations of which both nations are members

2.2.2. Laws, policies and relevant practices on labour and employment

2.2.3. Labour relations, including social dialogue

2.2.4. Working conditions and labour inspection

2.2.5. Labour market policies, including labour market measures, employability and unemployment insurance

2.2.6. Labour aspects of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agenda

### **Article 3: Modalities of Cooperation**

3.1. The Parties agree that cooperative activities may, inter alia, be implemented through:

3.1.1. Dialogue, exchange of information and best practice

3.1.2. Meetings, workshops

3.1.3. Exchanging of visits and experts

3.1.4. Joint studies

3.1.5. Joint initiatives in international organizations

3.1.6. Bilateral development cooperation projects as well as Public Private Partnerships

3.2. Cooperative activities are subject to national priorities and available resources.

3.3. The Parties agree that the participation in such forums as the International Labour Conference (ILC) and others may create favourable advantages for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

3.4. Each Party may invite employers' and workers' organizations, other government agencies and/or other relevant actors to participate in the identification of potential fields of cooperation and the implementation of cooperative activities.

### **Article 4: Institutional settings for implementation**

4.1. Each Party shall respectively appoint a coordinating agency who shall serve as contact point to oversee the implementation of all the issues related to this Memorandum of Understanding and ensure the communication between the Parties:

For the Swiss side: The International Labour Affairs Division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs under the Federal Department of Economic Affairs.

For the Vietnamese side: The International Cooperation Department under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs.

4.2. The Parties agree that the coordinating agencies shall meet once a year to discuss the plan for implementing this Memorandum of Understanding and jointly decide on future cooperative activities. The Parties shall jointly decide on the holding of any other meetings deemed necessary for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

4.3. Each Party may consult with its employers' and workers' organisations, other government agencies and other relevant actors over matters related to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding by whatever means that Party considers appropriate.

#### **Article 5: Common Provisions**

5.1. This Memorandum of Understanding comes into effect upon signature by both Parties.

5.2. Any difference or dispute arising in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through consultation between the Parties.

5.3 This Memorandum of Understanding can be amended by mutual consent of the Parties.

5.3. Either Party may terminate the Memorandum of Understanding by giving written notice in advance to this effect. The Memorandum of Understanding terminates six months after the issuance of the written notice. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity of any arrangements already made under it.

Done and signed in duplicate in Bern, on 13 September 2011, in English.

For the Federal Department of Economic  
Affairs



Mr. Eric Martin  
Ambassador

Delegate of the Federal Council  
for Trade Agreements

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

For the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and  
Social Affairs



Mr. Bui Thanh Son  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs