

**JOINT DECLARATION ON
COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR
AND THE EFTA STATES**

JOINT DECLARATION ON COOPERATION

The Republic of Ecuador (hereinafter referred to as “Ecuador”), on the one hand,

and

Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter referred to as “the EFTA States”), on the other:

DESIRING to enhance the bonds of friendship and economic cooperation between Ecuador and the EFTA States;

BELIEVING that such cooperation will contribute to their common interests in strengthening their economic cooperation, create new opportunities for employment and enhance the economic development;

ADHERING to the principles of human rights, democracy and the common objective of fostering human and economic contacts across borders;

RECOGNISING the different levels of development between the EFTA States and Ecuador.

BUILDING on their mutual commitment to the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as the WTO);

EXPRESSING their intention to establish a framework supporting the expansion and diversification of trade and investment flows between Ecuador and the EFTA States,

DESIRING to pursue the objective of sustainable development and recognising the mutual supportiveness of the economic development, the social development and the environmental protection

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility for sustainable development, and affirming their aim to encourage enterprises to observe internationally recognised guidelines and principles in this respect

HEREBY DECLARE the following:

I OBJECTIVES

1. Ecuador and the EFTA States will seek to:
 - (a) enhance economic relations between them, in particular concerning trade in goods and services as well as investment;
 - (b) facilitate the increased involvement of the private sector, in particular of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, in trade and commercial cooperation between them;
 - (c) ensure that labour and environmental standards are reflected in their trade relationship; and
 - (d) examine, in light of any relevant factors, the possibility of further developing their economic and trade relationship.

II TRADE

2. The EFTA States and Ecuador, subject to their respective laws and regulations, will seek ways and means to expand trade relations, taking into account international obligations, in particular the provisions of the WTO agreements, *inter alia*, in the areas of:

- (a) trade in goods and services;
- (b) technical barriers to trade;
- (c) sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- (d) trade facilitation, including customs cooperation; and
- (e) intellectual property rights;

3. Ecuador and the EFTA States will seek to broaden cooperation in areas of particular importance to expanding their trade relations, *inter alia*, by exchanging views and information, and encouraging cooperation on:

- (a) competition policy and law;
- (b) public procurement;
- (c) trade and sustainable development;

- (d) human resources development;
- (e) investment flows,
- (f) all trade-related issues and policies such as technical cooperation and technology transfer

4. Ecuador and the EFTA States will, when conditions permit, jointly examine actions to be taken in view of negotiating a trade agreement between them, taking into account the provisions of the WTO.

III PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT

5. Ecuador and the EFTA States will seek to promote private sector economic, trade and investment cooperation projects.

6. Ecuador and the EFTA States will encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises, especially micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and organisations concerned with foreign trade and investment, with the aim of developing sustainable economic activities between Ecuador and the EFTA States.

IV JOINT COMMITTEE

7. Ecuador and the EFTA States hereby establish a Joint Committee.

8. The Joint Committee shall be composed of representatives of Ecuador and the EFTA States.

9. The Joint Committee shall review the cooperation in areas referred to in this declaration and discuss any other issue of mutual interest. It may formulate recommendations on any relevant subject by consensus.

10. The Joint Committee shall meet as and when necessary upon agreement between Ecuador and the EFTA states.

11. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be provided jointly by the Ministry of International Trade of Ecuador and the EFTA Secretariat.

DONE in Schaan on this 22nd day of June 2015, in two original copies in the English language.

For Ecuador

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For Iceland

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For the Principality of Liechtenstein

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For the Kingdom of Norway

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For the Swiss Confederation

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