

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING ABUSE OF AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND CHEMICALS

The Republic of the Philippines and the Islamic Republic of Iran, hereinafter referred to as "Parties",

Recognizing that drug abuse and illicit trafficking of controlled substances and chemicals pose a serious threat to the health, security and welfare of human beings, and adversely affect the economic, social, cultural and political foundations of the society;

Considering the gravity of the acute situation caused by enlarged scope of illicit drug production and smuggling in the world;

Recognizing the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

Recognizing the importance of coordination and cooperation in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking of controlled substances and chemicals;

Aware of the mutual advantages of such a constructive cooperation by both Parties; and

Recognizing the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national legislations of the Parties,

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1
OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE**

1- The Parties shall actively cooperate to combat the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors (hereinafter referred to as "dangerous drugs") , subject to their respective national laws and regulations, administrative systems and procedures, available resources and rights and responsibilities resulting from other international obligations.

2- For the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding, narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors shall have the same meaning as defined in the relevant United Nations international conventions.

**ARTICLE 2
COOPERATION MODES**

The Parties shall cooperate in the following areas, inter alia:

- a) exchange of information on any suspicion of illegal traffic of narcotics, psychotropic substances, or illegal diversion of precursors and essential chemicals towards any of the Parties;

- b) exchange of information on concealment methods used in the illegal transit of narcotics, psychotropic substances or illegal diversion of precursors and essential chemicals, as well as on ways of detecting them;
- c) exchange of information on usual routes of criminal organizations engaged in illegal traffic of narcotics, psychotropic substances or illegal diversion of precursors and essential chemicals within the territory of any of the Parties;
- d) exchange of information on new types of drugs;
- e) organize meetings to exchange experiences on research, detection and control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors and essential chemicals;
- f) organize workshops, seminars and congresses to share experiences on drug addiction, detoxification and rehabilitation;
- g) exchange of methodology on identification of sources of illegal inflow of narcotics, psychotropic substances and illegal diversion of precursors and essential chemicals, as well as information aimed at enforcing actions to prevent this kind of illegal activities;
- h) exchange of information on legislative and practical experiences on the prohibition of illegal trade and abuse of narcotics and psychotropic substances;
- i) exchange of specialists and practitioners of professional training in order to improve their specialization in fighting illegal trade of narcotics and psychotropic substances;
- j) organize workshops on the subject;
- k) establish direct communication connections among corresponding authorities of both Parties, by telephone, electronic mail, telex, facsimile or any other potential and secure devices; and
- l) any other action as agreed upon by the Parties.

ARTICLE 3 CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

The information and documents obtained in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding shall be kept confidential.

ARTICLE 4 COOPERATION MECHANISM

1- In order to fulfill the purposes stated in this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties establish the Philippine-Iran Cooperation Committee against Narcotic Trafficking, Drug Addiction and Related Offences, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", composed of the competent authorities from both Parties. The Parties shall alternately host the meetings of the Committee to be held on annual basis. In case of necessity, extraordinary meetings shall be convened by the agreement of the Parties.