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**Finland
and
Nordic Environment Finance Corporation**

Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation. Helsinki, 15 October 2013

Entry into force: *11 May 2014, in accordance with article X*

Authentic texts: *English, Finnish and Swedish*

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**Finlande
et
Corporation de finance environnementale des pays nordiques**

Accord de pays hôte entre le Gouvernement de la République de Finlande et la Société nordique de financement pour l'environnement. Helsinki, 15 octobre 2013

Entrée en vigueur : *11 mai 2014, conformément à l'article X*

Textes authentiques : *anglais, finnois et suédois*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies : *Finlande, 20 juin 2014*

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**HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE NORDIC ENVIRONMENT FINANCE
CORPORATION**

The Government of the Republic of Finland (hereinafter the “Government”) and the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (hereinafter the “Corporation”),

Noting that the Corporation was established in 1990 by the five Nordic countries to promote investments of Nordic environmental interest in Eastern Europe by contributing to the financing of companies in these countries;

Having regard to the Agreement concluded on 6 November 1998 between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden concerning the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (hereinafter the “Agreement”), which includes provisions on both the Corporation’s legal status as an international legal person and certain privileges and immunities concerning the Corporation and its staff;

Noting that the Government and the Corporation concluded a Host Country Agreement on 14 October 1999, regulating certain issues relating to the Corporation and its staff in more detail;

Noting that the Corporation’s headquarters is located at the headquarters of the Nordic Investment Bank in Helsinki;

Bearing in mind that the Corporation has a similar background, standing and legal framework as the Nordic Investment Bank and the two institutions are administratively closely linked and that the Government and the Nordic Investment Bank have concluded a new Host Country Agreement in 2010;

Taking into account that certain legislative provisions concerning the Corporation and its staff have been amended;

Noting the need to clarify the Corporation’s status as an international organisation;

Desiring therefore to conclude a new Host Country Agreement while acknowledging that the purpose of the new Host Country Agreement is to preserve the current practice, particularly with respect to social security;

have agreed the following:

ARTICLE I

Definitions

In this agreement:

- a) "host country" means the State of Finland;
- b) "Government" means the Government of Finland;
- c) "Corporation" means the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation;
- d) "Agreement" means the treaty concluded on 6 November 1998 between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden concerning the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation;
- e) "Managing Director" means the Managing Director of the Corporation or a person assigned to work on his or her behalf, whose name is communicated by the Managing Director to the Government;
- f) "Corporation's premises" means real estates, buildings and parts of buildings normally occupied by the Corporation in order for it to carry out its official tasks;
- g) "staff" means persons working at the Corporation's headquarters, including the Corporation's Managing Director;
- h) "family member" means a person included in the definition of a family member in the Finnish Aliens Act, of which amendments are notified from time to time to the Corporation.

ARTICLE II

Legal status

The Corporation, which is an international organisation, shall have the status of an international legal person and full legal capacity pursuant to Article 1 of the Agreement. In particular, the Corporation shall have the capacity to enter into agreements, acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property and to be a party to legal proceedings before courts of law and other authorities.

ARTICLE III

Premises

The premises of the Corporation shall be inviolable. No Finnish official or any other person exercising public authority shall enter the Corporation's premises to perform their official duties without the express consent of the Managing Director and under conditions approved by or at the request of the Managing Director. The service of process or seizure of private property shall not take place in the premises without the express consent of the Managing Director and under conditions approved by him or her.

The Managing Director shall, upon request, make the appropriate arrangements to enable the relevant public utility services to inspect, repair, maintain, reconstruct, and relocate the public utilities and equipment related to them within the Corporation's premises.

In the event of a fire or some other emergency constituting a threat to the safety of the staff or to the premises and requiring prompt protective action, the consent of the Corporation may be assumed for the competent authorities to take reasonable measures to protect the staff and the premises of the Corporation.

With the exception of immunity from legal process accorded to the staff of the Corporation pursuant to Article 10 of the Agreement, the Corporation shall not allow the premises of the Corporation to become a refuge from justice for persons who are avoiding arrest or service of legal process or who are subject to extradition or deportation.

In situations where public order or safety is in danger and immediate action is required and in situations where the police intends to arrest a person trying to escape, the consent of the Corporation shall be assumed for the police to take required action in accordance with the acts and decrees governing the activities of the police and by taking into consideration the general principles guiding the activities of the police.

Similarly, it shall be assumed that the Corporation has given its consent in situations where someone from the Corporation calls the police or which concern calling the police by using technical means.

The Government shall be under a duty to take reasonable actions to prevent the Corporation's premises from forceful entry and damage and to prevent disturbances of the peace and infringements of the Corporation's dignity.

The Corporation has the right to request a security clearance concerning a person applying for a position, to be chosen for a position or for training, or occupying a position within the Corporation, as set out in the legislation in force from time to time.

ARTICLE IV

The procedure in connection with the Corporation's exemption from taxes and customs duties

The exemption from the taxes and customs duties referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the Agreement shall be granted in accordance with Finnish legislation in force, either directly without application to the effect that no tax or customs duty is collected, or upon application as a tax refund to the Corporation.

ARTICLE V

Social security for the staff

Staff who reside in Finland when this Agreement enters into force or staff who reside in Finland at the time of their recruitment and to whom Finnish social security legislation applies, shall continue to be covered by this legislation irrespective of nationality. The same shall apply to the family members of these persons.

Finnish social security legislation shall be applied to staff members to whom Finnish social security legislation was not applied prior to them being recruited by the Corporation and these persons shall be covered by the Finnish social security legislation and benefit from the municipal social and health care services. The same shall apply to the family members of these persons.

The Corporation shall be liable for paying statutory contributions to the Finnish social security system in respect of its staff, and similarly the Corporation's staff shall be liable for paying statutory employee contributions.

ARTICLE VI

Pension security of the staff

The Corporation shall be responsible for pension security of its staff. The Corporation may set up its own pension scheme for the staff or organise the pension security in some other way. The Corporation's staff may belong to the Finnish State Pension System. If the Corporation so wishes, the entire staff or certain employees can be insured in accordance with the pension scheme for the private sector in Finland.

ARTICLE VII

Entry into the country, transit and residence

The Government shall take all the necessary measures to facilitate the entry into the country, residing and transit through Finnish territory of the persons referred to in Article 11 of the Agreement as well as the Managing Director and their family members in order for them to perform their official tasks relating to the Corporation. This facilitation shall include the granting of visas and residence permits free of charge and as promptly as possible in accordance with the applicable legislation.

The Corporation shall when requested provide the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with a list of the persons referred to in Article 11 of the Agreement, including their family members. The Corporation shall notify the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of any changes to the list. The Corporation shall provide the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with notification of appointment of the persons referred to in paragraph 2 of Article V of the Host Country Agreement. The details on these persons shall at their request be recorded in the population information system and they shall be provided with an identity number.

At the request of the Corporation, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall issue to those persons mentioned in paragraph 2 of Article V of the Host Country Agreement a card bearing a photo and identifying the holder of the card as a staff member of the Corporation or a family member of the person in question. The card shall be granted at the request of the Corporation also to other persons belonging to the Corporation's staff, if the card is required for the performance of official tasks.

This Article shall not prevent the requirement of reasonable evidence to establish that persons claiming the treatment provided for in this article fall within the categories described in this article.