

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
ICELAND ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Iceland (the “Parties”):

Considering the strong bonds of friendship and close ties between the two countries;

Desiring to facilitate investment and trade in goods and services between their territories;

Recognizing the importance of fostering an open and predictable environment for international trade and investment;

Recognizing the benefits to each Party resulting from increased international trade and investment, and that eliminating barriers to bilateral trade and investment will enhance economic growth and encourage increased productivity in each Party’s territory;

Recognizing the essential role of private investment, both domestic and foreign, in furthering growth, creating jobs, expanding trade, improving technology, and enhancing economic development;

Recognizing the desirability of resolving trade and investment problems as expeditiously as possible;

Committed to promoting transparency and eliminating bribery and corruption in international trade and investment;

Recognizing the importance of providing adequate and effective protection and enforcement of worker rights in accordance with each Party’s labor laws and of improving the observance of internationally recognized labor rights;

Recognizing the importance of protecting and preserving the environment in accordance with each Party’s environmental laws, and desiring to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive in the furtherance of sustainable development;

Noting that the Parties are Members of the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) and affirming that this Agreement is without prejudice to the rights and obligations of these Parties under the agreements, understandings, and other instruments related to or concluded under the auspices of the WTO;

Declaring their intention to establish a forum for regular dialogue on trade and investment between the Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE ONE: ESTABLISHMENT

The Parties hereby establish the United States-Iceland Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum (“the Forum”), comprising representatives of each Party.

ARTICLE TWO: OBJECTIVES

The Forum shall seek to enhance bilateral trade and investment by:

1. pursuing initiatives on specific trade and investment matters, with a view to concluding agreements or other arrangements that will facilitate bilateral trade and investment;
2. discussing multilateral trade issues of common interest;
3. identifying trade and investment matters that may be appropriate for negotiation or joint action in plurilateral and multilateral fora;
4. promoting cooperation between the Parties on trade and investment matters;
5. facilitating the increased involvement of the private sector in trade and commercial cooperation between the Parties;
6. examining any specific trade and investment matter that a Party may raise; and
7. considering other initiatives that may serve to reduce barriers to trade and investment between the Parties.

ARTICLE THREE: ORGANIZATION

1. The Forum shall be co-chaired by a representative of the Office of the United States Trade Representative and a representative of Iceland’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs and External Trade.
2. Representatives of other governmental entities and of the private sector of a Party may participate in the Forum as appropriate.

ARTICLE FOUR: PROCEDURES

1. The Forum shall meet on a regular basis at such times, in such places, and through such means as the Parties agree.
2. The Forum shall review areas for potential cooperation and discuss issues of mutual interest.
3. The Forum shall regularly review its progress in achieving the objectives of this Agreement.

4. The Forum may convene working groups of officials from appropriate governmental entities to address particular trade and investment matters.
5. As appropriate, the Parties shall seek advice from representatives of their private sectors on matters related to the Forum's activities.
6. Each Party shall endeavor to provide an opportunity for the Forum to consider a matter before taking actions that could adversely affect trade or investment interests of the other Party.

ARTICLE FIVE: FINAL CLAUSES

1. This Agreement shall be without prejudice to the law of either Party or to the rights and obligations of either Party under any other agreement.
2. This Agreement may be amended by the agreement of both Parties in writing.
3. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date that the Parties exchange notes stating that each has completed the required procedures under its domestic law and shall remain in force unless terminated pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Article.
4. Either Party may withdraw from this Agreement by providing written notice of withdrawal to the other Party. The withdrawal shall take effect on a date the Parties agree or, if the Parties cannot agree, 180 days after the date on which the notice of withdrawal is delivered.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Reykjavik this 15th day of January 2009 in duplicate in the English language.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
ICELAND:**