PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN FOR THE PERIOD 2015 – 2017

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties");

With a view to further strengthening mutual trust and friendship between the two countries;

Guided by the provisions of the Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India of 15th February 1993, and the Memorandum of Understanding on Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan of 7th August, 2006; and

Desirous of strengthening an effective, legal framework of cooperation between the two countries and the fuller implementation of the agreements already signed between them,

Have agreed to the following programme of joint activities during the period 2015 to 2017:

1. Bilateral Consultations

The Parties shall hold regular bilateral consultations on all issues of mutual interest, including:

(a) Measures to strengthen bilateral relations, including high-level exchanges and Ministerial visits;

- (b) Security, counter-terrorism, combating illegal drug trafficking, trans-border organized crime and arms smuggling;
- (c) Regional issues, including Afghanistan and the Middle East;
- (d) International issues such as water, environment and energy security;
- (e) Cooperation in the framework of international and regional organizations such as UN, SCO etc.; and
- (f) Consular issues
- (g) Connectivity

The Parties shall hold consultations on the aforementioned issues at mutually agreed levels and in the framework of working group meetings alternately in India and Tajikistan. Wherever necessary the Parties may constitute expert groups on specific issues by mutual consent.

The Parties shall hold regular Consultations at the Secretary/Deputy Minister level to discuss all issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation and to review outcomes of working groups on various issues.

2. Regional and Multilateral Cooperation

The Parties would coordinate positions on issues within the framework of international organizations such as UN, SCO etc.,

The Parties would also cooperate within the framework of international economic organizations, forums, and financial institutions.

3. Economic and Commercial Cooperation

The Parties will consult and work together intensively to implement all necessary measures to promote bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries, including implementation of mutually beneficial projects, facilitate private sector investments, meetings and conferences for businessmen and conduct of trade exhibitions.

4. Training of Diplomats

The Parties would also cooperate in the field of training diplomatic personnel. To this purpose, the Indian side shall render assistance in training diplomats from Tajikistan during the periods 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 at the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India. The number of diplomats, the duration of the training and other details will be decided through mutual consultations.

5. Information and media exchanges

The Parties will facilitate exchange of media persons and implement measures to share publications, press releases and other material to promote greater exchange of information between the two countries.

6. Celebration of events of historic importance

The Parties would support each other in commemoration of events of historic significance for the two countries. The Parties will support each other in events to mark the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the Republic of Tajikistan. Dates and other details of the event will be decided by mutual consultation.

7. Duration of the Programme

This Programme of Cooperation shall come into force from the date its signature and shall be valid for a period of two years. This Programme may be amended in writing at any time as decided and agreed by mutual consent of the Parties. Termination of the present Programme will not affect the implementation of the Programmes, which are already in progress under the present Programme and will be continued in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Programme.

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation, application or implementation of any provision of this Programme shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized thereto, by their respective Governments have singed this Programme.

Signed in New Delhi on May 13, 2015, in two originals, each in Hindi, Tajik and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

For the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan