Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

With a view to further strengthening mutual trust and developing friendly relations between the two countries;

Desirous to promote the development of bilateral relations in the political, trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian and other spheres of mutual interest on the principles of partnership, equality and mutual benefit,

Emphasizing the need for enhanced cooperation in the framework of international organisations,

Desirous to establish legal framework of cooperation between the two countries and further facilitate implementation of the agreements concluded between their States,

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Parties shall hold regular consultations to discuss all aspects of their bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Article 2

The Parties shall hold regular consultations at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other levels on the issues provided in Article 1, alternately in India and in Uzbekistan.

In case of necessity, the Parties may establish expert groups on specific issues by mutual consent.

The levels, agenda and dates of such consultations shall be agreed through diplomatic channels.

Article 3

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

- (a) Measures to strengthen and expand bilateral relations, including high-level exchanges and Ministerial visits;
- (b) Issues related to Afghanistan and West Asia
- (c) Consular issues
- (d) Exchange of information on the implementation of bilateral agreements,

concluded between their States.

Article 4

The Parties shall, within their competence, promote the establishment and development of direct communication between the public authorities and institutions, public and scientific organisations and business groups of both countries as well as render diplomatic assistance in carrying out projects of bilateral cooperation, including in trade-economic, investment, cultural and humanitarian fields.

Article 5

The Parties would cooperate in the field of training of diplomatic personnel including exchanges of diplomats for special courses in the field of international relations and international law, organized by state institutions of both countries.

The Indian party assists in training of diplomats from Uzbekistan at the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs of India.

The number of diplomats, duration of the training and other details shall be decided through mutual consultations.

Article 6

The Parties shall cooperate within the framework of international and regional organizations such as UN, SCO and others through their representatives at these organizations.

Article 7

All disputes and disagreements arising from interpretation, application of any provision of this Protocol shall be settled by mutual consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

By mutual agreement of the Parties, this Protocol may be modified or amended in writing.

Article 8

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain in force, unless either of the Parties notifies in writing the other Party at least six (6) months in advance on its intention to terminate this Protocol.

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

Done at Tashkent on 06 July 2015, in two originals each in Hindi, Uzbek and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of divergence in interpretation of the provisions of this Protocol, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

A. R.