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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIA-BRAZIL-SOUTH AFRICA DIALOGUE FORUM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE INDIA, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ON ESTABLISHING A TRILATERAL TASK TEAM ON BIOFUELS

The Government of the Republic of India, the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties")

Taking into account the creation, in 2003, of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Forum as a high-level mechanism for political consultation and co-ordination as well as to improve economic relations among the Parties;

Taking into account the need for the strengthening of South-South cooperation in strategic areas, including energy;

Recognizing the common interests shared by the Parties on the development of safe, renewable, and environmentally sustainable energy sources;

Considering that in the 2004 Plan of Action the Parties committed themselves to intensify the existing dialogues and promote joint cooperation in selected areas of the energy sector, including biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel);

Building upon the bilateral instruments on biofuels cooperation signed by the Parties, such as the Memorandum of Understanding on technological cooperation on ethanol blending in transportation fuels between India and Brazil, signed in 2002;

Desiring to expand biofuels production and consumption worldwide with a view to establish a world market for biofuels, in particular ethanol and biodiesel;

Recognizing the accruing benefits for the environment and the development of rural communities derived from the use of alternative sources of energy such as biofuels;

Considering the strategic importance of a South-South partnership in the field of biofuels, in particular with regard to ethanol, biodiesel and related technologies;

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Have decided the following:

ARTICLE 1

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK TEAM

1. The Parties shall, on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity, establish a Task Team to explore the possibilities for cooperation in the field of biofuels and its technologies, in accordance with their national priorities. The Task Team shall work under the aegis of IBSA Working Group on Energy.
2. Each Party shall designate a Focal Point and shall inform the other Parties through the diplomatic channels. The composition of the Task Team may include:
 - a. for the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Ministry of External Relations, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade;
 - b. for the Republic of India, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Science and Technology; and
 - c. for the Republic of South Africa; the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Trade and Industry
3. Other Government agencies may participate, if deemed appropriate by the Parties.

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ARTICLE 2

FOCUS AREAS

The Task Team referred to in Article 1 shall:

- (a) facilitate technology transfer and promotion of biofuels production and consumption with a view to establish a world market for biofuels, in particular ethanol and bio-diesel;
- (b) promote compatible frameworks for biofuels production, use, distribution and marketing;
- (c) develop technical cooperation programs, including downstream operational aspects (transport, storage, blending, and distribution) of ethanol and biodiesel;
- (d) share information on policy making aspects and technology development for bio-fuels including the creation of a market;
- (e) promote capacity building on all aspects of sustainable biofuels production including environmental impact assessment, land use, plant configuration, use of by-products, disposal and waste recycling, distribution infrastructure, logistics, etc;
- (f) promote ethanol trading in major commodity market places worldwide;
- (g) foster joint programs of research on the production and use of biofuels; and
- (h) promote exchange of information among the Parties on the design of automobile engines for promoting the use of bio-fuels.

ARTICLE 3

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon notification by the Parties through diplomatic channels, once their respective internal legal procedures have been fulfilled. This Memorandum shall be valid for two (2) years, automatically renewed for a further period of two (2) years.
2. Any of the Parties may terminate this Memorandum at any time by giving written notice to the other Parties at least three (3) months in advance. Such termination shall not affect the activities under execution.


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Signed in Brasilia on this 13th day of September 2006 in two originals; in Portuguese and English, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA