

**Memorandum of Understanding
on Comprehensive Cooperation
between the Republic of Austria
and the Islamic Republic of Iran**

The Federal Chancellor of Austria, Wolfgang Schüssel, and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, desirous to expand and strengthen the political, economic cultural and scientific relations existing between the two countries and with an aim to deepen the friendly ties between their peoples on the occasion of the state visit of H.E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Mohammad Khatami in Vienna have agreed on the following:

1. Political and International Cooperation:

Both sides shall deepen the existing political relations through consultations at various levels.

With an aim to bring their views closer and deepen and strengthen cooperation on regional and international issues of mutual interest with a view to assisting the creation of a global coalition for peace and the promotion of human rights, international peace, justice and security, both sides shall cooperate with each other and shall hold necessary consultations on various issues such as those of Afghanistan, Persian Gulf and the Balkans. Regarding the Middle East, the two sides will continue their dialogue in the search for a just and durable peace in the region.

Both sides condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agree that acts of terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds. They agree on a global campaign against terrorism within the framework of the UN Organization. In this context, both sides emphasize the importance of social justice and elimination of discrimination.

Both sides shall cooperate with each other to strengthen the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, to promote non-proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass

destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological) and their respective delivery systems, to establish an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, to campaign against illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and to combat organized crime.

2. Economic Cooperation

The Austrian side welcomes and supports efforts of the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare the negotiations in view of signing a trade and co-operation agreement and expansion of the existing cooperation between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Considering the longstanding and amicable relations and the will of the two countries to further promote their bilateral economic co-operation both sides shall make joint efforts to find ways and means through which - while preserving the process of increase in trade and economic transactions between the two countries - the Islamic Republic of Iran's exports to Austria to be enhanced.

The agreements of promotion and protection of investments and of avoidance of double taxation between the two countries shall smooth the way for investments which will encourage further mutual co-operation.

The Austrian side welcomes and supports the efforts for tighter co-operation of Iran with OECD and the further integration of Iran in the multilateral trading system.

Both sides agreed to support their relevant institutions in the field of trade, economic, scientific, research, educational, infrastructural, environmental and telecommunication co-operation and transfer of technology, and to promote the exchange of information, experts and students.

3. Cultural and Scientific Cooperation

Considering their interest in the cultural and scientific areas and also their will for the expansion of above-mentioned cooperation, they stressed the implementation of the provisions of M.O.U. signed between the two countries on September 21st 1999 (30th Shahrivar 1378) and agreed to renew the said M.O.U.

Both sides emphasized the importance of human dignity and moral values as a universal and decisive element in relations among nations.

Considering the long-standing cooperation existing between the two countries on dialogue among their thinkers in the field of civilizations and religions, both sides expressed their readiness for further expansion and institutionalization of the said cooperation.

Both sides appreciate and welcome the expansion of technology and scientific studies between their universities and scientific institutions and the promotion of the teaching of the Persian language in Austria and the German language in Iran, in conformity with the rules and regulations prevailing in their respective countries.

Both sides underline the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Division of Scientific Research and International Affairs of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Austria and the Islamic Republic of Iran Presidency Technology Cooperation Office in the Fields of Science and Technology signed on May 22nd 2000 (1st Khordad 1379).

Done and signed at Vienna on Esfand, 21st, 1380 (corresponding to March 12th, 2002) in two original copies in Farsi and English languages, both of which are equally authentic.

Wolfgang Schüssel
Federal Chancellor

Seyyed Mohammad Khatami
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran