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**Agreement
between the Republic of Moldova and the Portuguese Republic
on Economic Cooperation**

The Republic of Moldova and the Portuguese Republic, hereinafter referred to as "Parties",

Conscious of the importance of economic cooperation for the development and diversification of the relations between both States;

With a view to strengthen the existing economic relations between the two States on a basis of equity and reciprocity of advantages;

Taking into account the internal legislation and the international obligations of the two States,

Agreed as follows:

**Article 1
Object**

The Parties shall endeavor to develop and strengthen economic cooperation between the two States aiming at intensifying and diversifying their bilateral economic relations on a mutually beneficial basis.

**Article 2
Areas of Cooperation**

1. The cooperation between the Parties shall include the following areas:
 - a) Industry;
 - b) Infrastructure;
 - c) Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
 - d) Transport;
 - e) Environment;
 - f) Trade and Investment Promotion;
 - g) Tourism;
 - h) Energy;
 - i) Small and Medium size Enterprises;
 - j) Food Safety.

2. The Parties activity is not to be limited to the indicated forms of cooperation and can be extended to other areas.

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3. The Parties may decide to cooperate in other areas that appear to be more advantageous taking into account the regular development of bilateral relations and the priorities of the economic policy of the two States.

Article 3
Cooperation Mechanisms

Without prejudice to other beneficial measures for the implementation of bilateral cooperation and with a view to reinforce the bilateral economic relationship, the Parties shall:

- a) Encourage the participation in initiatives such as fairs, exhibitions, symposia and other meetings intended to promote and develop cooperation between the two countries and mainly between their economic agents and representative organizations;
- b) Provide information to economic agents about the economic situation of the two countries, regulations and economic programs, opportunities of cooperation and development of bilateral economic relations, and other economic information of mutual interest;
- c) Encourage the exchange of visits of commercial delegations;
- d) Encourage the relevant specialized entities and the private sector to explore the possibilities of executing common projects in various areas of economic cooperation.

Article 4
Cooperation between SME

The Parties, in accordance with internal legislation, committed to promote and support cooperation between Small and Medium size Enterprises (SME) in different areas shall explore possible industrial investments and cooperation opportunities including SME and, furthermore, shall take concrete steps to make such cooperation materialize between the two countries.

Article 5
Establishment Facilitation

The Parties shall facilitate, in their own States, and subject to their internal legislation, the establishment of offices representing economic organizations and enterprises of the other Party.

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Article 6
Intellectual Property

The Parties shall ensure and reinforce the protection of industrial and intellectual property rights within their internal law and international obligations.

Article 7
Joint Commission

1. With a view to ensuring the implementation of the present Agreement and coordination of the economic cooperation between the two countries, the Parties shall establish a Joint Commission, composed of representatives from both countries in charge of economic bilateral relations.

2. The Joint Commission shall identify areas of cooperation of mutual interest, recommend measures to reinforce the economic bilateral relations and contribute to the resolution of any arisen difficulties which hinder bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

3. The Joint Commission will meet, by mutual agreement, at the request of one of the Parties, alternately in the Republic of Moldova and in the Portuguese Republic.

4. If deemed necessary, the Joint Commission may decide the setting up, under its aegis, of Working Groups on sectors of mutual interest and, where necessary, include representatives of other relevant institutions.

5. The Joint Commission shall approve its own rules of procedure.

Article 8
Other instruments

The Parties shall endeavor to create an appropriate environment for the conclusion of other agreements or protocols in the economic sector.

Article 9
Relation with other international or regional conventions

The provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations derived from international conventions to which both Parties are Party to.

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**Article 10
Settlement of disputes**

Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the present Agreement shall be settled through negotiation through the diplomatic channels.

**Article 11
Amendments**

- 1. The present Agreement may be amended by mutual consent at the request of one of the Parties.
- 2. The amendments to this Agreement shall be adopted in separate Protocols and shall come into force according to Article 12 of the present Agreement.

**Article 12
Duration and termination**

- 1. This Agreement shall be valid for a period of five years and shall enter into force thirty days after the receiving in writing through diplomatic channels of the last notification on the fulfillment by both Parties of the internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement.
- 2. This Agreement shall be automatically extended for five year periods unless either of the Parties notifies the other Party in writing through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate the Agreement at least six months prior to the end of the five year period.

**Article 13
Registration**

Upon entry into force of the present Agreement, the Party in whose territory it is signed shall transmit it to the Secretariat of the United Nations, and shall notify the other Party of the completion of this procedure as well as of its registration number.

Done in Lisbon on 11 September 2023, in two originals in the Romanian, Portuguese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation of this Agreement, the English version shall prevail.

For the Republic of Moldova

For the Portuguese Republic

