

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OF THE  
TRANSITIONAL ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN

AND THE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND  
THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*RECALLING* the joint statement issued by Presidents Bush and Karzai on February 27, 2003, recommitting the governments of the United States and Afghanistan to a "full partner[ship] in Afghanistan's reconstruction";

*RECALLING* President Bush's commitment, with the support of the U.S. Congress, to continue the U.S. comprehensive program of assistance to Afghanistan;

*FURTHER RECALLING* President Karzai's goal of a transition to broad-based reconstruction efforts that require the participation and support of a broad range of stakeholders;

*NOTING* the progress already achieved in developing and expanding their bilateral economic relationship, and the need for continued efforts in this regard; and

*DESIRING* to establish a mechanism for further cooperation in matters affecting the bilateral economic relationship, including bilateral trade and investment;

THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING AS FOLLOWS:

I. PARTICIPANTS

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding are the International Trade Administration of the United States Department of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative on the one hand; and the Ministry of Commerce of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan on the other hand.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE U.S.-AFGHAN WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- A. The Participants hereby establish the U.S.-Afghan Working Group on Trade and Investment (the "Working Group"). Representatives in the Working Group include:
1. For the United States,
    - The International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce,
    - The Office of the United States Trade Representative,
    - The Department of State,
    - The Department of the Treasury,
    - The Trade and Development Agency,
    - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and
    - The Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and
  2. For Afghanistan,
    - The Ministry of Commerce,
    - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acting through the Department of Economics,
    - The Office of the President, acting through the Department of Economics,
    - The Ministry of Finance, and
    - The Da Afghanistan Bank.
- B. The International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative are to jointly serve as U.S. Co-Chair of the Working Group. The Afghanistan Ministry of Commerce is to serve as Afghan Co-Chair of the Working Group. The Co-Chairs may invite other ministries, departments or other agencies of either government to participate in the activities of the Working Group.
- C. The objectives of the Working Group are to identify opportunities for, and obstacles to, increased trade, investment and other economic activity between the Participants and between Afghanistan and neighboring countries.
- D. The Working Group should strive to meet at least once each year. The Participants expect to convene such additional meetings or videoconferences of the Working Group as may be practicable, based on available resources. The Co-Chairs should work with their respective governments and each other to identify and propose appropriate topics for discussion at each meeting of the Working Group.

III. DURATION

Activities under this Memorandum of Understanding are expected to begin immediately upon signature by the Participants and to continue indefinitely. A Participant that is unable to continue its activities under this Memorandum of Understanding should endeavor to provide six months' written notice prior to ending its participation.

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

The Participants intend to work to ensure that the goals and objectives of the Working Group are successfully met, subject to available resources.

For the International Trade Administration  
of the Department of Commerce  
of the United States of America



Grant D. Aldonas  
Under Secretary, International Trade Admin.  
Department of Commerce

Date:

For the Ministry of Commerce  
of the Transitional Islamic State of  
Afghanistan



Sayed Mustafa Kazemi  
Minister of Commerce

Date:

For the Office of the United States Trade Representative  
of the United States of America



Ambassador Peter F. Allgeier  
Deputy United States Trade Representative

Date: 6-6-03