MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Government of the Kingdom of Norway

and

the Republic of The Union of Myanmar

conterning

Development Cooperation

1. Introduction

With the view to further strengthening the relations between our two countries, based on friendship and mutual respect, this Memorandum of Understanding defines the overall framework and priorities for future cooperation between Norway and Myanmar.

2. Objectives and areas of cooperation

The cooperation between Myanmar and Norway will be aligned with the development goals of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, as outlined in the national development strategy.

The two Governments agree that the overall goal for our bilateral development cooperation is to contribute to peace and reconciliation and an enabling environment for social and economic development.

The development cooperation will focus on, but not be limited to, supporting two main areas: 1) peace, democratization and the reform process, 2) sustainable management of natural resources, energy and environment/climate change. The cooperation may be broadened to include support to other sectors, based on mutual consent.

1) Peace, democratization and the reform process

Based on requests from the Government of Myanmar, Norway will continue to support the peace process, as well as prove support to the democratization and economic reform processes.
2) Sustainable management of natural resource, energy and environment/climate change

The cooperation will contribute to strengthening government institutions and their ability to manage natural resources in a responsible manner. Norway and Myanmar will continue the cooperation in the hydropower sector, as well as on environmental management. The two governments will intensify their efforts to explore possible cooperation on sustainable management of petroleum resources and increase the cooperation on renewable energy, with a focus on increasing access to sustainable energy. Climate change mitigation will be a key cross-cutting effort.

Capacity building and gender equality are key cross-cutting efforts in all areas of the development cooperation.

3. Roles and responsibilities

In facilitating the implementation of the overall national development policies, strategies and plans of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, and in making the principle of recipient responsibility operational, the two Governments undertake to build a framework on a set of basic principles, based on the Guide to International Assistance:

- All agreements within the government-to-government cooperation shall be in line with Myanmar’s development plans.
- The agreements will serve as instruments for a dialogue on management and implementation and will specify the purpose and outputs, the obligations of the parties and the auditing and reporting requirements. Emphasis will be given to results-based planning, monitoring and reporting.
- The Government of Norway will support Myanmar in coordinating, harmonising and aligning Norway’s donor support in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Busan Partnership Agreement and the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development.
- The cooperation will be based on internationally accepted requirements for accountable and transparent financial management. Both Governments agree that no corruption and fraudulent practices will be accepted in the cooperation.
- Cooperation may be financial or come in the form of technical assistance and advice, as required to meet development objectives.
4. The volume of assistance

The level of assistance will be subject to the socio-economic development in Myanmar, requests for funding, progress in the implementation of the various components in the cooperation and annual allocations made by the Norwegian Parliament.

5. Validity

This MoU will be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of its signature. It may be revised when deemed necessary by either of the parties and a mechanism for such revision will be agreed upon by the parties. It may be terminated by either party with three months notice.

Signed in duplicate in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 1 December 2014, in the English language.

For the Government of the Kingdom of Norway

Børge Brende
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Union of Myanmar

H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw
Minister of National Planning and Economic Development