

**DECLARATION OF INTENT**

**BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE**

**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE**

**GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

**ON COOPERATION**

**IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD**

## PREAMBLE

The Department of Environmental Affairs of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of the Kingdom of Norway (hereinafter referred to in the singular as a “Participant” and jointly as the “Participants”);

**RECOGNISING** the goals and principles stated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (“UNCED”) at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“WSSD”) at Johannesburg in 2002, and the outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in 2012, “The Future We Want”;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** the obligations, goals and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (“UNFCCC”), the Basel Convention, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (“UNCBD”) and related multilateral environmental agreements;

**AWARE** of the regional and global nature of environmental issues and the need to find cost-effective and long-term solutions in addressing these issues through international cooperation and the importance of coordinating joint activities of the Participants;

**RECALLING** the Joint Declaration on 17 April 2008 by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway and the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa on Climate Change and Energy Issues;

**SHARING** the common concern and responsibilities of the Participants to enhance cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development;

**CONVINCED** that cooperation between the Participants in the field of environmental

protection and sustainable development is of mutual benefit and will further promote the friendly relations between their respective countries,

**HAVE HEREBY REACHED** the following understanding:

**PARAGRAPH 1  
OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Declaration of intent (DoI) is to promote cooperation between the Participants in the field of environmental policies and management on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

**PARAGRAPH 2  
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES**

- (1) The Competent authorities responsible for the implementation of this DoI are to be
  - (a) in the case of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Department of Environmental Affairs; and
  - (b) in the case of the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, the Ministry of the Environment.
  
- (2) Each Participant is to designate a coordinator at director-general level who is responsible for the identification and coordination of cooperative activities under this DoI.

**PARAGRAPH 3**  
**AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The following areas have been identified by the Participants as priority areas of cooperation:

- (a) Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- (b) oceans and coastal management;
- (c) biodiversity;
- (d) chemicals; and
- (e) other areas related to the objective referred to in Paragraph 1, as mutually agreed upon between the Participants.

**PARAGRAPH 4**  
**FORMS OF COOPERATION**

The Participants undertake to cooperate in

- (a) the exchange of relevant environmental experience, practice, information and documentation;
- (b) the exchange of visits of experts, scholars and delegations;
- (c) jointly organizing seminars, workshops and meetings attended by scientists, experts, regulators and others concerned; and
- (d) other relevant forms of cooperation in the environmental field, as mutually agreed upon between the Participants.

**PARAGRAPH 5  
ANNUAL MEETING**

- (1) The Participants undertake to meet annually, alternately in South Africa and Norway, as mutually agreed between them.
- (2) Each Participant is to be responsible for its own travel and accommodation costs to attend the annual meeting.

**PARAGRAPH 6  
IMPLEMENTATION**

- (1) To implement this DoI, the Participants are to encourage their respective environmental protection organisations, enterprises and research institutions, to establish and develop direct contacts with each other in the field of environmental management.
- (2) Each Participant is to bear its own costs and expenses arising from the implementation of this DoI.

**PARAGRAPH 7  
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Any dispute between the Participants arising out of the interpretation, application or implementation of this DoI is to be settled amicably through consultation and negotiations between the Participants.



**PARAGRAPH 8  
AMENDMENTS**

This DoI may be amended by mutual consent of the Participants through an Exchange of Letters between the Participants.

**PARAGRAPH 9  
ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION**

- (1) This DoI is to enter into force on the date of signature thereof and shall remain in force for a period of five years, after which it shall be automatically extended for further periods of five years, unless terminated in terms of sub-Paragraph (2).
- (2) This DoI may be terminated by either Participant by giving six months' written notice in advance to the other Participant of its intention to terminate it.
- (3) The termination of this DoI will not affect any arrangement or activity that has already been made or commenced before the termination, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Participants in writing.

**PARAGRAPH 10  
OBLIGATIONS**

- (1) This Declaration of intent shall not be considered to be a treaty regulated by international law.
- (2) The provisions of this DoI shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Participants deriving from any treaty, convention, regional or global agreement related to the environment and this DoI shall be implemented in accordance with the domestic law in force in their respective countries.

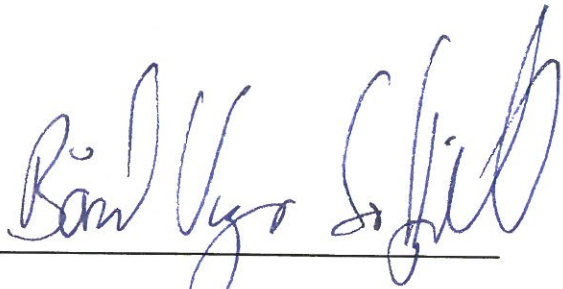
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned have signed this Declaration of intent in two originals in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

**DONE** in Oslo on this 21st day of June 2013.



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**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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**FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**