

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
CONCERNING
THE RECIPROCAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF
INVESTMENTS

The Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh hereinafter referred to as the “Contracting Parties”;

Desiring to promote greater economic cooperation between both Contracting Parties with respect to investment by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party;

Recognizing the treatment to be accorded to such investment by an agreement will stimulate the flow of capital and technology for the economic development of the Contracting Parties;

Agreeing that fair and equitable treatment of investments is desirable in order to maintain a stable framework for investment and will contribute to maximizing effective utilization of economic resources and improve living standards; and

Being convinced that these objectives can be achieved without relaxing health, safety and environmental measures of general application as well as internationally recognized labor rights;

Having resolved to conclude an agreement concerning the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement;

1. The term “investment” means every kind of asset, connected with business activities, acquired for the purpose of establishing a lasting economic relation in the territory of either Contracting Party in conformity with its laws and regulations, and shall include in particular, but not exclusively:

- (a) movable and immovable property and any other property rights such as mortgages, liens, pledges as defined in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Contracting Party in whose territory the property is situated;
- (b) reinvested returns, claims to money or any other rights having financial value related to an investment;
- (c) shares, stocks or any other form of participation in companies;
- (d) industrial and intellectual property rights including patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyrights, technical process, goodwill and know-how;
- (e) business concessions conferred by law or by contract, including concessions to explore, extract, exploit or cultivate natural resources;

provided that such investments which are in the nature of acquisition of shares or voting power amounting to, or representing of less than ten (10) percent of a company through stock exchanges shall not be covered by this Agreement.

2. The term “investor” means:

- (a) natural persons having the nationality of a Contracting Party according to its laws;
- (b) companies, corporations, firms, business partnerships incorporated or constituted under the law in force of a Contracting Party and having their registered offices together with substantial business activities in the territory of that Contracting Party;

who have made an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

3. The term “returns” means the amounts yielded by an investment and includes, in particular, though not exclusively, profit, interest, capital gains, royalties, fees and dividends.

4. The term “territory” means; the land territory, internal waters, the territorial sea and the airspace above them, as well as the maritime areas over which the host Contracting Party has sovereign rights or jurisdiction for the purpose of exploration, exploitation and preservation of natural resources whether living or non-living, pursuant to international law.

ARTICLE 2
Promotion and Protection of Investments

1. Subject to its laws and regulations, each Contracting Party shall in its territory promote as much as possible investments by investors of the other Contracting Party.
2. Investments of investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times be accorded treatment in accordance with international law minimum standard of treatment, including fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security in the territory of the other Contracting Party. Neither Contracting Party shall in any way impair the management, maintenance, use, enjoyment, extension, or disposal of such investments by unreasonable or discriminatory measures.

ARTICLE 3
National Treatment and Most Favored Nation Treatment

1. Each Contracting Party shall admit in its territory investments on a basis no less favorable than that accorded in like circumstances to investments of investors of any third Country, within the framework of its laws and regulations.
2. Each Contracting Party shall accord to these investments, once established, treatment no less favorable than that accorded in like circumstances to investments of its investors or to investments of investors of any third Country, whichever is the most favorable, as regards the management, maintenance, use, enjoyment, extension, or disposal of the investment.
3. The Contracting Parties shall within the framework of their national legislation give favorable consideration to applications for the entry and sojourn of persons of either Contracting Party who wish to enter the territory of the other Contracting Party in connection with investment activities.
4. (a) The Provisions of this Article shall not be construed so as to oblige one Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other Contracting Party the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege which may be extended by the former Contracting Party by virtue of any international agreement or arrangement relating wholly or mainly to taxation.

(b) The non-discrimination, national treatment and most-favored nation treatment provisions of this Agreement shall not apply to all actual or future advantages accorded by either Contracting Party by virtue of its membership of, or association with a customs, economic or monetary union, a common market or a free trade area; to nationals or companies of its own, of Member States of such union, common market or free trade area, or of any other third Country.

(c) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article shall not apply in respect of dispute settlement provisions between an investor and the hosting Contracting Party, laid down simultaneously by this Agreement and by another similar international agreement to which one of the Contracting Parties is signatory.

(d) The provisions of Article 2 and 3 of this Agreement shall not oblige Contracting Parties to accord investments of investors of the other Contracting Party the same treatment that it accords to investments of its own investors with regard to acquisition of land, real estates, and real rights upon them.

ARTICLE 4 **Protection of Public Health and Environment**

1. A Contracting Party shall not waive or otherwise derogate from its national public health and environmental policies as an encouragement or otherwise, to the establishment, acquisition, expansion, operation, management, maintenance, use, enjoyment and sale or other disposal of an investment of an investor of the other Contracting Party.

2. Each Contracting Party shall reserve the right to exercise all legal measures in case of loss, destruction or damages with regard to its public health or life or the environment by investments of the investors of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 5 **General Exceptions**

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent a Contracting Party from adopting, maintaining, or enforcing any non-discriminatory legal measures:

(a) designed and applied for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment;

(b) related to the conservation of living or non-living exhaustible natural resources.

2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed:

(a) to require any Contracting Party to furnish or allow access to any information the disclosure of which it determines to be contrary to its essential security interests;

(b) to prevent any Contracting Party from taking any actions that it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests,

(i) relating to the traffic in arms, ammunition and implements of war and to such traffic and transactions in other goods, materials, services and technology undertaken directly or indirectly for the purpose of supplying a military or other security establishment,

(ii) during war or other emergency in international relations,

(iii) relating to the implementation of national policies or international agreements respecting the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

(c) to prevent any Contracting Party from taking action in pursuance of its obligations under the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

ARTICLE 6

Expropriation and Compensation

1. Investments shall not be expropriated, nationalized or subjected, directly or indirectly, to measures of similar effects (hereinafter referred as expropriation) except for a public interest, in a non-discriminatory manner, upon payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation, and in accordance with due process of law and the general principles of treatment provided for in Article 3 of this Agreement.

2. Non-discriminatory legal measures designed and applied to protect legitimate public welfare objectives, such as health, safety and environment, do not constitute indirect expropriation.

3. Compensation shall be equivalent to the market value of the expropriated investment before the expropriation was taken or became public knowledge. Compensation shall be paid without delay and be freely transferable as described in paragraph 2 Article 8.

4. In the event that payment of compensation is delayed, it shall carry an interest at a rate to be agreed upon by both parties unless such rate is prescribed by law from the date of expropriation until the date of payment.

ARTICLE 7
Compensation for Losses

1. Investors of either Contracting Party whose investments suffer losses in the territory of the other Contracting Party owing to war, insurrection, riots, revolts, state of national emergency or other similar events shall be accorded by such other Contracting Party treatment no less favorable than that accorded to its own investors or to investors of any third Country, whichever is the most favorable treatment, as regards any measures it adopts in relation to such losses.

2. Without prejudice to paragraph (1) of this Article, investors of one Contracting Party who in any of the situations referred to in that paragraph suffer losses in the territory of the other Contracting Party resulting from:

(a) requisitioning of their property by its forces or authorities; or

(b) destruction of their property by its forces or authorities, which was not caused in combat action or was not required by the necessity of the situation;

shall be accorded restitution or reasonable compensation. Resulting payments shall be freely convertible.

ARTICLE 8
Repatriation and Transfer

1. Upon fulfillment of all tax obligations, each Contracting Party shall permit in good faith all transfers related to an investment to be made freely and without delay into and out of its territory. Such transfers include:

(a) returns,

(b) proceeds from the sale or liquidation of all or any part of an investment,

(c) compensation pursuant to Articles 6 and 7,

(d) reimbursements and interest payments deriving from loans in connection with investments,

(e) salaries, wages and other remunerations received by the nationals of one Contracting Party who have obtained in the territory of the other Contracting Party the corresponding work permits related to an investment,

(f) payments arising from an investment dispute.

2. Transfers shall be made in the convertible currency in which the investment has been made or in any convertible currency at the rate of exchange in force at the date of transfer, unless otherwise agreed by the investor and the hosting Contracting Party.

3. Where, in exceptional circumstances, payments and capital movements cause or threaten to cause serious balance of payments difficulties, each Contracting Party may temporarily restrict transfers, provided that such restrictions are imposed on non-discriminatory basis and in good faith.

ARTICLE 9

Subrogation

1. If one of the Contracting Parties has a public insurance or guarantee scheme issued by a designated agency (hereinafter referred as “the insurer”) to protect investments of its own investors against non-commercial risks, and if an investor of this Contracting Party has subscribed to it, any subrogation of the insurer under the insurance contract between this investor and the insurer shall be recognized by the other Contracting Party.

2. The insurer is entitled by virtue of subrogation to exercise the rights and enforce the claims of that investor and shall assume the obligations related to the investment. The subrogated rights or claims shall not exceed the original rights or claims of the investor.

3. Disputes between a Contracting Party and an insurer shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 10

Settlement of Disputes Between One Contracting Party and Investors of the Other Contracting Party

1. Disputes between one of the Contracting Parties and an investor of the other Contracting Party, in connection with its investment, shall be settled amicably as far as possible through negotiations between the Parties to the dispute, upon the submission of a written notification including detailed information by the investor to the hosting Contracting Party.

2. If these disputes, cannot be settled amicably within six (6) months following the date of the written notification mentioned in paragraph 1, the disputes can be submitted, as the investor may choose, to:

(a) the competent court of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment has been made, or

(b) except as provided under paragraph 4 of this Article, to:

- (i) the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) set up by the "Convention on Settlement of Investment Disputes Between States and Nationals of other States", in case both Contracting Parties become signatories of this Convention,
- (ii) an ad hoc arbitration tribunal established under the Arbitration Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

3. Once the investor has submitted the dispute to one or the other of the dispute settlement procedures mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article, the choice of one of these procedures is final.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article;

(a) only the dispute arising directly out of investment activities which have obtained necessary permission, if any, in conformity with the relevant legislation of both Contracting Parties on foreign capital, and that effectively started shall be subject to be jurisdiction of the International Center for Settlement on Investment Disputes (ICSID) or any other international dispute settlement mechanism as agreed upon by Contracting Parties.

(b) the disputes, related to the property and real rights upon the real estates are totally under the jurisdiction of Contracting Party in whose territory the investment is made, therefore shall not be submitted to jurisdiction of the International Center for Settlement on Investment Disputes (ICSID) or any other international dispute settlement mechanism.

5. The arbitration tribunal shall take its decisions in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, the laws and regulations of the hosting Contracting Party (including its rules on the conflict of laws) and the relevant principles of international law as accepted by both Contracting Parties.

6. The arbitration awards shall be final and binding for all parties in dispute. Each Contracting Party commits itself to execute the award according to its national law.

ARTICLE 11

Settlement of Disputes Between The Contracting Parties

1. Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled as far as possible by negotiations. If the dispute between the Contracting Parties cannot thus be settled within six (6) months from the time the dispute has arisen, it shall upon the request of either Contracting Party be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.

2. Such an arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way:

- (a) Within two (2) months of receipt of a request, each Contracting Party shall appoint an arbitrator. In the event either Contracting Party fails to appoint an arbitrator within the specified time, the other Contracting Party may request the President of the International Court of Justice to make the appointment.

(b) Those two arbitrators shall select a third arbitrator as Chairman, who is a national of a third Country. If both arbitrators cannot reach an agreement about the choice of the Chairman within two (2) months after their appointment, the Chairman shall be appointed upon the request of either Contracting Party by the President of the International Court of Justice.

(c) If, in the cases specified under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article, the President of the International Court of Justice is prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Contracting Party, the appointment shall be made by the Vice-President, and if the Vice-President is prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Contracting Party, the appointment shall be made by the next senior member of the Court who is not a national of either Contracting Party.

3. The tribunal shall have three (3) months from the date of the selection of the Chairman to agree upon rules of procedure consistent with the other provisions of this Agreement. In the absence of such agreement, the tribunal shall request the President of the International Court of Justice to designate rules of procedure, taking into account generally recognized rules of international arbitral procedure.

4. Unless otherwise agreed, all submissions shall be made and all hearings shall be completed within eight (8) months from the date of selection of the Chairman, and the tribunal shall render its decision within two (2) months after the date of the final submissions or the date of the closing of the hearings, whichever is later. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decisions, which shall be final and binding, by a majority of votes.

5. Expenses incurred by the Chairman, the other arbitrators, and other costs of the proceedings shall be paid for equally by the Contracting Parties. The tribunal may, however, at its discretion, decide that a higher proportion of the costs be paid by one of the Contracting Parties.

6. A dispute shall not be submitted to an international arbitration tribunal under the provisions of this Article, if a dispute on the same matter has been brought before another international arbitration tribunal under the provisions of Article 10 and is still before the tribunal. This will not impair the engagement in direct and meaningful negotiations between both Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 12

Scope of Application

This Agreement shall apply to all investments in the territory of one Contracting Party, made in accordance with its national laws and regulations, by investors of the other Contracting Party, whether prior to, or after the entry into force of the present Agreement. However, this Agreement shall not apply to any disputes that have arisen before its entry into force.

ARTICLE 13
Entry into Force

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of last notification by the Contracting Parties, in writing and through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the respective internal legal procedures necessary to that effect. It shall remain in force for a period of ten (10) years and shall continue in force unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article.

2. This agreement replaces the Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investments, signed on 12th November 1987 in Ankara which shall be terminated on the date of entry into force of this Agreement. The disputes submitted to arbitration after the date of entry into force of this Agreement shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

3. Either Contracting Party may, by giving one year's written notice to the other Contracting Party, terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial ten-year period or at any time thereafter.

4. This Agreement may be amended by mutual written consent of the Contracting Parties at any time. The amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the same legal procedure prescribed under the first paragraph of the present Article.

5. With respect to investments made or acquired prior to the date of termination of this Agreement and to which this Agreement otherwise applies, the provisions of all of the other Articles of this Agreement shall thereafter continue to be effective for a further period of ten (10) years from such date of termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Ankara on 12/April/2012 in the Turkish and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH