

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

Between

**The Ministry of Panchayati Raj  
Republic of India**

And

**The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development  
Kingdom of Norway**

For

### **Mutual Cooperation on Local Governance**

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Republic of India and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Kingdom of Norway (henceforth referred to as “the Participants”)

CONSIDERING that the development of Local Government relations will be of mutual benefit to both the countries,

DESIROUS to mark the intention in both countries for comprehensive dialogue and deliberation in the area of Local Governance,

CONSIDERING further that such cooperation will promote the development of existing friendly relations between the two countries,

HAVE REACHED the following understanding:

1. Through the cooperation between the two countries, the intention is to encourage transference of competence between them for strengthening local self-governance including capacity building of institutions, focusing on areas relating to achievement of Millennium Development Goals, e-governance, solution sharing and mobilization of resources.

2. To operationalize this Memorandum, the following mechanism is decided upon:

- (i) Indo-Norway Joint Forum with the Minister of Panchayati Raj of the Republic of India and the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Kingdom of Norway as the Co-Chairs; and
- (ii) Indo-Norway Joint Working Group (JWG) on Local Governance at the official level consisting of nominees representing both governments to be initiated through correspondence. The Joint Working Group will recommend to the Joint Forum a schedule of activities between India and Norway for bilateral exchanges of elected representatives, civil society organizations, as well as intellectuals, researchers, resource persons and officials on both sides.

3. The Joint Forum shall meet alternately in India and Norway on date(s) mutually decided upon by the Co-Chairs.

4. The Joint Working Group will recommend to the Joint Forum, the dates and venue for exchange of ideas and experience between all constituents comprising elected representatives, civil society organizations, intellectuals, researchers and resource persons in the two countries. The Joint Working Group shall meet alternately in India & Norway on date(s) mutually decided upon.

5. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or modified at any time by mutual consent between India and Norway.

6. This MoU will come into effect on [the date of its signature] and will remain in operation until terminated by either Participant, giving the other twelve months written notice. The Participants will consult to determine how any outstanding matters should be dealt with.

7. Any differences arising from the application or interpretation of this MoU shall be settled by the Participants through bilateral negotiations.

8. This Memorandum of Understanding is signed in the originals in the English language.

Signed on (the date of signature) at \_\_\_\_\_.

**For :**  
The Ministry of Local Government  
and Regional Development  
Royal Kingdom of Norway

**For :**  
The Ministry of Panchayati Raj  
Government of the Republic  
of India