MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ON

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, (hereinafter referred to in singular as a "Party" and in plural as the "Parties");

DETERMINED to develop and encourage cooperation between two countries in the field of Higher Education and Training;

CONVINCED that closer educational cooperation would contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two countries, according to their abilities, interests, their respective laws, and cooperating on equal terms,

HEREBY AGREE as follows:

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

(a) The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen their relations in higher education, in priority areas mutually defined with particular focus on enhancement of educational quality, through institutional partnerships, academic collaboration and student mobility.

(b) The Parties may identify other areas for collaboration related to higher education and training, in addition to those mentioned in this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE 2

COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

The competent authorities responsible for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be —

(a) for the Government of the Republic of South Africa ("South Africa"), the Department of Higher Education and Training; and

(b) for the Government of the Kingdom of Norway ("Norway"), the Ministry of Education and Research.

ARTICLE 3

EXPANSION OF ACADEMIC RELATIONS

The Parties shall encourage partnerships and thematic networks, through higher education institutions, aiming to expand professional, scientific and academic cooperation in different areas of knowledge, respecting the relevant legal provisions in each country, especially the autonomy of higher education institutions to join these networks and partnerships.

ARTICLE 4

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATES

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The Parties shall encourage the exchange of delegates consisting of students, teachers and administrative staff, with a view to enhancing their knowledge in the field of higher education.

ARTICLE 5

DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Parties shall—

(a) encourage the strengthening of ties between their respective institutions of higher education and training;

(b) promote the enhancement of quality in higher education through bilateral policy dialogue; and

(c) promote collaboration between the Parties' higher education institutions, research partners and industry to enhance the relevance and quality of education, and employability.

ARTICLE 6

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The Parties shall encourage their citizens to study, as self-paying students or on government scholarships, at each other's higher education and training institutions in mutually agreed fields of study, and based on the institutions' capacities.

ARTICLE 7

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP

(a) The Parties shall establish a joint working group on cooperation in the field of higher education (hereinafter referred to as "WG-Education").

(b) The WG-Education shall be co-chaired by a representative from the competent authorities of the Parties.

(c) Representatives of both Parties shall participate in the WG-Education meetings as determined by either Party, to examine specific aspects of their bilateral cooperation in order to enhance the exchange and cooperation in the field of higher education and training.

(d) The representatives of both Parties shall participate in the WG-Education meetings and report to the co-chairs on the progress in the implementation of cooperation programs with participation of representatives of other agencies as deemed appropriate by the Parties;

e) The WG-Education shall meet alternately in South Africa and in Norway, on dates and with an agenda that will be arranged between the Parties.

ARTICLE 8

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Parties shall promote the exchange of information on policies and educational systems.

ARTICLE 9

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Each Party shall bear their own costs related to the implementation of the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding, which shall not involve the transfer of financial resources of either Party.

ARTICLE 10

AMENDMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time, by mutual consent of the Parties through an Exchange of Notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

ARTICLE 11

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute concerning the interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 12

ENTER INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1) This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date on which the Parties have notified each other in writing through the diplomatic channel of their compliance with the domestic law requirements necessary for the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding, and shall remain in force unless terminated in accordance with sub-Article (2).

2) Either Party may terminate the Memorandum of Understanding by giving to the other Party, six months' written notice of its intention to terminate, through the diplomatic channel.

3) The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect programmes, projects or activities concluded in terms of this Memorandum of Understanding until the completion of such programmes, projects or activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF of the undersigned, have signed and sealed this Memorandum of Understanding in two originals, in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

Done at ……. On this ….. day of ……. 2026.

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FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**