**Agreement**

**Between**

**The Government of the State of Israel**

**and**

**The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

 **on Cooperation in the Fields of Telecommunications, Information Technologies and Postal Services**

The Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain (hereafter referred to as “the Parties”)

***Guided*** by the principles enshrined in the “*Declaration of Peace, Cooperation and Constructive Diplomatic and Friendly Relations*” signed by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Israel in Washington DC on 15th of September 2020;

***Reaffirming*** the principles enshrined in the “*Abraham Accords Declaration*” signed by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America in Washington DC on 15th of September 2020;

***Further*** to the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic, Peaceful and Friendly Relations, signed by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Israel in Manama on 18 October 2020, and in particular Article 2 thereof;

***Sharing*** the view that the development of telecommunications, information technologies and postal relations is a major factor for promoting trade and technical exchanges as well as the economic and social development of the two countries for the benefit of both their peoples;

***Confirming*** the necessity of mutually beneficial cooperation for the development of up-to-date telecommunications and postal services, the modernization of telecommunications networks in both countries and the expansion and development of telecommunications and postal services between the two countries;

***Guided*** by the desire to develop and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of telecommunications and postal services;

**Have agreed as follows**:

**General Provisions Regarding Telecommunications and Postal services**

Article 1

The Parties, based on equity, reciprocity and mutual benefit shall develop telecommunications and postal services between them in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, and the mutually applicable provisions of the Constitution and the Universal Postal Convention of the Universal Postal Union and the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union.

Article 2

The Parties agree to consult at the request of either Party, regarding telecommunications and postal issues of concern to either of them in the International Telecommunication Union, the Universal Postal Union, and in other international fora, and to cooperate in promoting the goals of those organizations in the telecommunications and postal fields.

Article 3

The Parties shall encourage contacts between public bodies and private entities, academic and research institutes, corporations, other relevant organizations and specialists to discuss scientific and technical issues related to telecommunication and postal activities. These bodies may conclude relevant agreements, which may provide details of cooperative activities.

The Parties shall encourage the establishment of joint companies for the provision of telecommunications and/or postal services.

Article 4

The Parties agree to exchange views regarding the regulation of telecommunications and postal services in an increasingly liberal market environment.

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of information on their liberalization and investment programs in the fields of telecommunications and posts, which may be of mutual interest, with a view to encourage participation of companies from each Party in projects in these fields taking place in the other Party.

Article 5

The Parties agree to encourage cooperation, in accordance with the respective resources and needs of each Party, with existing scientific and academic institutions dealing with telecommunications and posts in both countries.

The terms and conditions of such cooperation shall be decided through separate agreements between the relevant entities of each Party.

Article 6

The Parties shall consult with each other, whenever necessary, on further simplification of operational, managerial and tariff arrangements, taking into consideration the state of telecommunication and postal services in both countries.

Article 7

The Parties agree to develop cooperation as follows:

1. Exchange of information regarding regulations, standardization and relevant international conventions in the fields of telecommunications and related information technologies and Postal services, as well as on new relevant technical means and technologies regarding resilience and security of critical telecommunications infrastructures;
2. Share views, information and best practices on broadband strategy, smart cities solutions and 5G regulations, security and innovation;
3. Conduct bilateral consultations;
4. Develop and establish joint working groups, training and mutual projects in the fields of telecommunications and information technologies and postal services;
5. Establish International roaming between the Parties;
6. Organize and facilitate participation in seminars, conferences, joint forums and international events and fairs, organized by either party;
7. Mutually support each other in international organizations when national interests of both Parties coincide.

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Article 8

All activities undertaken by a Party pursuant to this Agreement, including the conclusion of additional agreements or other documents shall be carried out in accordance with and subject to the respective laws and regulations of the Parties, subject to their budgetary considerations and within the competence of the entity involved in the activity.

**Specific Provisions Regarding Telecommunications and Information Technologies**

Article 9

The Parties agree to promote the establishment of telecommunications between them based on modern technologies and their integration into the worldwide telecommunication network, including the creation of new channels utilizing available satellite systems and fiber-optical communication lines, as well as encouraging the deployment of joint submarine cable.

To this end, cooperation on international projects may be realized on the basis of separate agreements concluded between the concerned entities of the Parties.

**Postal Services**

Article 10

The Parties shall encourage the establishment of direct mail exchange, the development of the services of exchanging airmail, surface mail, and any other postal or commercial solutions as described in the UPU Acts. Of special interest are the following services:

1. EMS items;
2. Tracked and untracked delivery solutions to the global e-commerce market;
3. Ordinary postal parcels;

The Parties may encourage entities in their states to provide additional postal services as appropriate.

Article 11

The Parties shall inform each other through their competent authorities of the restrictions relating to the conditions of post-delivery and the contents of postal items.

Article 12

The Parties shall endeavor to take the necessary measures for the improvement of mail exchange and to secure its safety.

The Parties shall promote, through their respective postal authorities, the coordination with the Custom/relevant Administrations in their country in order to improve and shorten the time of mail transfer during the customs process.

The parties shall endeavor to take necessary measures to provide quality of service and delivery standards.

Article 13

The liability for the loss, theft or damage to registered postal items, and to postal parcels shall in all cases be settled according to the Universal Postal Union Acts and to the contracts between the relevant entities engaged in the postal services.

Article 14

The Parties shall promote cooperation in the field of philately including the organization of philatelic exhibitions.

Article 15

The Parties shall examine the joint development of additional joint services for the benefit of the citizens in both countries and for the benefit of the postal operators in both countries.

**Concluding Provisions**

Article 16

The Ministry of Communications of the State of Israel and the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications of the Kingdom of Bahrain and TRA, The National Telecom Regulatory Authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain, shall be responsible for the implementation of this Agreement on behalf of their respective governments, unless otherwise agreed upon between the Parties.

The working language shall be English, unless otherwise agreed upon between the Parties.

Each party shall bear its own costs arising out of the implementation of this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed upon between them.

Article 17

Neither party shall disclose or distribute any information received from the other Party, except as specifically authorized in writing by the originating Party prior to the said disclosure or distribution.

Termination of this Agreement shall not affect obligations under this Article.

Article 18

Any dispute arising from the interpretation and application of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through negotiations and consultations between the Parties.

Article 19

1. This Agreement shall enter into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification.
2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years, and shall automatically be extended for additional periods of five (5) years each, unless terminated by either Party giving at least six (6) months prior written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate the Agreement.
3. Termination of the Agreement shall not affect activities that have commenced prior to termination, unless otherwise agreed by both Parties.

Article 20

This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual consent of both Parties. The amendments shall enter into force with the same procedures established in Article 21 (a).

Done in \_\_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2020, which corresponds to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 5781 of the Hebrew Calendar, in duplicate, each in the Hebrew, Arabic and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

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| For the Government of the State of Israel | For the Government ofthe Kingdom of Bahrain |