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**Law No. (47) of 2011 ratifying Framework Convention on economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the government of Malaysia**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution, And the Framework Convention on economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the government of Malaysia signed in Abu Dhabi on 30 January 2011, The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following law, which we have ratified and promulgated:

**Article one**

The Framework Convention on economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between the member states of the The Gulf Cooperation Council and the government of Malaysia signed in Abu Dhabi on 30 January 2011, attached to this law, has been ratified.

**Article two**

The Prime Minister and the ministers– each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace: Date: 1 Safar 1433 A.H. Corresponding to: 26 December 2011

**Framework Convention on economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the government of Malaysia**

The governments of the United Arab Emirates, the kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait, that are parties to the charter of the Gulf Cooperation Council hereinafter referred to as “ GCC states”, The government of Malaysia, hereinafter to as “ Malaysia”

Collectively hereinafter referred to as “ the Contracting Parties”.

Recognizing the importance of the friendly relations already existing between the Contracting Parties, and Desiring to develop and enhance the economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between them on the basis of equality and mutual benefits, and taking into consideration the law and regulations in force in the both parties. Have concluded the following Framework Convention,

**Article one**

The Contracting Parties shall promote all aspects of economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between them, and encourage the exchange of information and necessary technical expertise in those fields.

**Article two**

The Contracting Parties shall consider and adopt, as appropriate, concrete means and tools to expand and liberalise their trade relations, including initiating discussions to conclude a free trade Convention between them, , taking into account their international obligations and the provisions of the World Trade Organisation.

**Article three**

The Contracting Parties shall seek to provide a proper environment for expanding trade exchanges between them through:

- Enhancing the exchange of information on foreign trade.

- Reducing and eliminating tariff and non – tariff barriers .

- Encouraging business relations particularly between the institutions and organizations concerned with foreign trade.

**Article four**

The contracting parties shall take appropriate arrangement for encouraging capital flows between them, setting up joint investment projects and facilitating corporate investments in the various fields of economy, trade and industry.

**Article five**

The Contracting Parties shall encourage exchanging visits of representatives, delegations and economic, technical and trade promotion missions between them, organizing temporary exhibitions and provide necessary facilities and assistance to this end.

**Article six**

A joint committee for economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation shall convent alternatively in the countries of the two Contracting Parties on a regular basis or when necessary. The level of participation will be mutually agreed upon between the two Contracting Parties.

- Following up implementation of the provisions of this Convention and other Conventions or protocols concluded between the Contracting Parties under this Convention, including criteria for the negotiation of a free trade area between the Contracting Parties.

- Addressing any difficulties or disputes that might arise from the interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this Convention.

- Adopting recommendations for enhancing economical, commercial and investment cooperation between the Contracting Parties, fostering their economic relations and increasing the volume of trade between them.

The Committee shall be authorized to set up any subcommittees or specialized working teams, at its discretion and when deemed necessary. The Committee shall designate the duties and functions of such subcommittees and working teams, provided that said subcommittees and working teams shall submit their reports and recommendations to the Joint Committee.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS Article seven**

Without prejudice to the provisions of the GCC charter and those of the GCC Economic Convention this Convention and any measures taken hereunder shall in no way affect the authority of GCC Member States to individually undertake bilateral activities with Malaysia in the fields covered by this Convention or concluded bilateral Conventions with Malaysia and vice versa.

**Article eight**

The provisions of this Convention may be amended with mutual consent of the Contracting Parties.

**Article nine**

The two Contracting pParties shall notify each in writing of the finalization of the necessary internal legal procedures, this Convention shall enter into force on the date of the delivery of the last written notification.

This Convention shall remain valid unless either Contracting Party notifies the other Contracting Party in writing, at least six months prior to the termination date, of its intention to terminate the Convention.

When this Convention is so terminated, the termination of this Convention shall not affect the validity or duration of any convention or project or activities made under the present Convention until the completion of such Convention or project, or activities.

This Convention was made in the Arabic and English languages, the two texts being equally authentic. Where discrepancy occurs, the English text shall prevail.

Signed in the city of Abu Dhabi , uUntied Arab Emirates, on Safar 1432 H, corresponding to 30 January 2011.

**For and behalf of the governments of the Member States Of The Gulf Cooperation Council For and behalf of the government of Malaysia**

**Abdullah bin zayed Al Nahyan minister of foreign affairs of United Arab Emirates, president – in – office of the ministerial council of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Mustapha Mohamed minister of international trade and industry**

**Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al –Atiyah** Secretary General of the cGulf Cooperation Council