



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN THE**

	<p><b>AND</b></p>	
<p><b>SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA</b></p>		<p><b>ISRAEL SECURITIES AUTHORITY</b></p>

**ON**

**ASSISTANCE AND MUTUAL CO-OPERATION**

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## **Introduction**

The Securities & Exchange Board of India (hereafter referred to as 'SEBI') was established under SEBI Act, 1992 to regulate the securities market in India. The objectives of the Securities & Exchange Board of India are to protect the interest of the investors, and to promote development of and to regulate the development of the securities markets in India. The main functions of Securities and Exchange Board of India include registration, regulation and supervision of intermediaries operating in the securities market, promoting and regulating self regulatory organisations, prohibiting fraudulent and unfair trade practices relating to securities markets, calling from or furnishing to agencies such information as may be considered necessary by it for efficient discharge of functions.

The Israel Securities Authority (hereafter referred to as 'ISA') was established pursuant to the Securities Law, 5728-1968, and its mandate is to protect the interests of the public investing in securities, as stipulated in the Law. Pursuant to this mandate, the functions of ISA, among others, include granting permits to publish prospectuses, regulating and supervising the mutual fund industry, monitoring disclosure, monitoring tender offers, licensing intermediaries, conducting investigation and ensuring fair and orderly trade of securities exchanges operating in Israel.

### **SEBI and the ISA (hereafter referred to as “the Authorities”),**

Considering the increasing internationalization, harmonization and interdependence of securities and financial markets due to the use of modern technology and the need for closer co-operation between exchanges, for mutual assistance, for the strengthening of cross-border co-operation in order to enhance investor protection, to promote the integrity of securities markets and more generally to facilitate performance of the supervisory functions and the effective enforcement of the Laws and Regulations governing the markets;

Considering that such an approach entails the sharing of different types of information given the various duties vested in the Authorities;

Considering that SEBI and the ISA are signatories to the International Organization for Securities Commissions (hereinafter "IOSCO") Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "the MMOU") the Parties will continue acting in furtherance of their commitments under the MMOU and will be obliged to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the MMOU. This bilateral Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to supercede these commitments regarding the MMOU. This bilateral Memorandum of Understanding endeavors to address issues specific to the relationship between the Authorities.

**Have thus reached the following understanding:**

**Article 1 -Definitions**

1. "*Authority*" means the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) or the Israel Securities Authority (ISA).
2. "*Authorities*" means the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Israel Securities Authority.
3. "*Requested Authority*" means the Authority to whom a request is made under this Memorandum of Understanding.
4. "*Requesting Authority*" means the Authority making a request under this Memorandum of Understanding.
5. "*Laws and Regulations*" means the provisions of the laws of the jurisdictions of the Authorities, the regulations promulgated there under, and other regulatory requirements that fall within the competence of the Authorities.
6. "*Person*" means any natural or legal person.

7. “*Securities*” means shares, bonds and other forms of securitized debts, futures and derivative products including commodity derivatives, units of undertakings in collective investment schemes and other financial products traded in the respective states of the Authorities.
8. “*Securities Market*” means an exchange or other market, including an over the counter market, in respect of equity securities, debt securities, bonds, options, or any other security that is recognized, regulated or supervised by the authorities.
9. “*Intermediary*” means any investment firm, bank, collective investment scheme and any other person acting within the scope of competence of the Authorities.
10. “*Issuer*” means a person making an offer to the public or seeking listing of a security.
11. “*Territory*” means the country, state or other territory, as the case may be, in which an Authority has authority, power and/ or jurisdiction.

## **Article 2 - Principles**

- 2.1 Without prejudice to the provisions set forth by Indian and Israeli law, the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a general framework for co-operation and consultation between the Authorities, in order to facilitate the fulfilling of their regulatory responsibilities. The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding are not intended to create legally binding commitments or supersede the national Laws and Regulations and shall be consistent with the national laws, regulations and conventions of the Authorities of the respective countries.
- 2.2 The Authorities will use their best endeavours to meet the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 2.3. This Memorandum of Understanding does not affect any right of any Authority under its national laws and regulations or any other arrangement

to take measures otherwise than as provided herein to obtain information necessary to ensure compliance with, or to enforce, its national laws and regulations. In particular, this Memorandum of Understanding does not affect any right of any Authority to communicate with or obtain information or documents from any other person on a voluntary basis in the territory of the other Authority, provided that it does not violate national laws and regulations of the authority in which territory the information is communicated or obtained;

2.4 This Memorandum of Understanding will not give rise, directly or indirectly, on the part of any person other than the Authorities the right to obtain, suppress or exclude any information or to challenge the execution of a request for assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding;

2.5 The Authorities recognise the need and desirability for providing mutual assistance and exchanging information to assist each other in ensuring compliance with laws or regulations of their respective countries. However, the Requested Authority may deny assistance requested under this Memorandum of Understanding on the ground that:

- (a) the provision of assistance would violate an essential national or public interest or national laws and regulations of the Requested Authority; or
- (b) the request is not made in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Article 3 - Scope of assistance**

1. To the extent permitted by their respective Laws and Regulations, the Authorities will provide each other with mutual assistance in any matters falling within the competence of the Authorities, including in particular the following areas:
  - a. investigations and enforcement in connection with applicable Laws and Regulations relating to insider dealing, market manipulation and other fraudulent or manipulative practices in the securities field,
  - b. investigation and enforcement of, and monitoring compliance with, applicable Laws, Rules and Regulations relating to dealing in, advising on and the management, administration and safekeeping of securities,
  - c. checking that the conditions for the taking up of, or continuing in, business as an Intermediary are met, including e.g. the enforcement of requirements to be authorized,
  - d. enforcing and monitoring compliance with applicable Laws and Regulations relating to the disclosure of interests in securities, takeover bids or the acquisition of influence over intermediaries,
  - e. the supervision of the Financial Markets, including clearing and settlement facilities, the monitoring and surveillance of OTC-transactions in securities listed on regulated markets,
  - f. enforcing or monitoring compliance with applicable Laws and Regulations relating to the duties of issuers and offerors of securities and directors, officers, shareholders and professional advisors of companies listed or

applying for listing in relation to disclosure of information relevant to the investors,

- g. any other matter agreed upon between the Authorities from time to time.

#### **Article 4 - Requests for Assistance or Information**

4.1. Requests for assistance will be made in writing, signed by the contact person of the Requesting Authority, and addressed to the contact person of the Requested Authority listed in Annex A.

4.2 The Request will specify the following:

- a. a description of the subject matter of the request and the purpose for which the information is sought and the reasons for seeking the said information;
- b. a description of the specific information requested by the Requesting Authority;
- c. a description of the facts that constitute the grounds for the suspicion that the offence that is the subject of the request has been committed, and of the connection between these facts and the assistance requested;
- d. a short description of the relevant provisions that may have been violated and, if known to the Requesting Authority, a list of the persons or institutions believed by the Requesting Authority to possess the information sought or the places where such information may be obtained and the details that support this belief, to the best of the Requesting Authority's knowledge;



- e. in so far as the request concerns information relating to transactions in specific securities
- a description of the securities in question as precise as possible, including the securities code,
  - the names of the firms with whose dealings in the securities the Requesting Authority is concerned,
  - the dates between which transactions in the securities are considered relevant for the purposes of the request,
  - the names of any persons on whose behalf relevant transactions in the securities are believed or suspected to have been entered into;
- f. in so far as the request relates to information concerning the business or activities of any person, such precise information as the Requesting Authority is able to provide so as to enable such persons to be identified;
- g. an indication of the sensitivity or confidentiality of the information contained in the request and whether the Requesting Authority agrees that the request will be disclosed to persons whom the Requested Authority may need to approach for information;
- h. whether the Requesting Authority is or has been in contact with any other authority or law enforcement agency in the State of the Requested Authority in relation to the subject matter of the request;
- i. any other securities authority of another State whom the Requesting Authority is aware has an active interest in the subject matter of the request;
- j. an indication of the urgency of the request, or the desired time period for the reply.

4.3 Each request will be assessed on a case by case basis by the Requested Authority to determine whether assistance can be provided under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding. In any case where the request cannot be accepted completely, the Requested Authority will consider whether there may be other assistance which can be given, to the extent permitted by its laws and regulations.

4.4 In deciding whether to accept or decline a request, the Requested Authority will take account of :

(a) matters specified by the laws and regulations in the territory of the Requested Authority; and

(b) whether the request involves an assertion of jurisdiction not recognized by the territory of the Requested Authority; and

(c) whether it would be contrary to an essential national or public interest to give the assistance sought.

4.5 The Requested Authority may refuse to Act on a request for assistance where sharing of the information might adversely affect the sovereignty, security or public policy of the State of the Requested Authority or where judicial proceedings for the imposition of criminal penalties have already been initiated in the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority, in respect of the same actions and against the same persons or on grounds that the provision of assistance might result in a judicial or administrative sanction being imposed, where a non-appealable judicial or administrative sanction has already been imposed, in the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority, in respect of the same actions and against the same persons. Nothing in this

provision shall prevent the Requested Authority from refusing a request in accordance with its own national Laws and Regulations.

4.6 To the extent permitted by their national laws and regulations, where one Authority has information which will assist another Authority in the performance of its regulatory functions, the former may provide such information, or arrange for such information to be provided, on a voluntary basis even though no request has been made by the other Authority (unsolicited information).

4.7 To the extent permitted by its national Laws and Regulations, the Requesting Authority will provide the Requested Authority with such further assistance as may reasonably be required for the efficient execution of the request including the provision of further information as to the circumstances surrounding the request, staff or other resources.

4.8 In cases where the information requested may be maintained by, or available to, another authority within the country of the Requested Authority, the Requested Authority will endeavor to provide full assistance in obtaining the information requested, to the extent permitted by its national Laws, Rules and Regulations. If necessary, the Requested Authority will provide the Requesting Authority with sufficient information to establish direct contact between the Requesting Authority and other authority.

## **Article 5 -Execution of Requests for Assistance**

- 5.1 To the extent permitted by its national Laws and Regulations, the Requested Authority will take all reasonable steps to obtain and provide the information sought within a reasonable period of time.
- 5.2 The Requested Authority will use the relevant means at its disposal for the execution of the request. The Authorities will consult and agree on the types of enquiry that may be necessary for the execution of a request. Unless otherwise agreed by the Authorities, information, documents or copies thereof requested under this Memorandum of Understanding, will be gathered in accordance with the Laws and Regulations applicable in the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority. Where permissible under the Laws and Regulations of the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority, a representative of the Requesting Authority may be present at the taking of statements and may provide, to a designated representative of the Requested Authority, specific questions to be asked of any witness.
- 5.3 To the extent permitted by its national Laws and Regulations, the Requesting Authority will provide the Requested Authority with such further assistance as may reasonably be required for the efficient execution of the request including the provision of further information as to the circumstances surrounding the request, staff or other resources.
- 5.4 To the extent permitted by their respective national Laws and Regulations, the Authorities will consider conducting joint investigations in cases where the request for assistance concerns violations of their Laws and Regulations, where it would assist in the effective investigation of the alleged violations. The Authorities will consult to define the procedures to be adopted for conducting any joint investigation, the sharing of work and responsibilities and the follow up actions to such investigations.

## **Article 6 - Permissible Uses of the Information Exchanged and Confidentiality**

- 6.1 The Authorities will use the information exchanged solely for the purposes of:
- a. securing compliance with or enforcement of the laws or regulations specified in the Request;
  - b. initiating, conducting or assisting in administrative, civil, disciplinary or criminal proceedings resulting from the violation of the Laws and Regulations specified in the Request.
  - c. any of the particular purposes specified in sub-paragraphs 3 (1)a-f. to the extent that they are administered by the Requesting Authority.
- 6.2 Any assistance or information provided under this Memorandum of Understanding should be used by the Requesting Authority only for the purposes stated in the request, including ensuring the proper administration and enforcement of the Laws and Regulations of the Requesting Authority specified in the request;
- 6.3 The Authorities to which unsolicited information is supplied will use this information solely for the purposes stated in the transmission letter or for the purposes of administrative proceedings or for the discharge of the obligation to report to judicial authorities.
- 6.4 To the extent permitted or required by law, each Authority will keep confidential any request for assistance made under this Memorandum of Understanding, the contents of such requests and the information received under this Memorandum of Understanding as well as any matters arising in the course of its operation, in particular consultations between or among the Authorities, and unsolicited assistance. After consultation with the

Requesting Authority, the Requested Authority may disclose the fact that the Requesting Authority has made the request if such disclosure is required to carry out the request.

6.5 If an Authority intends to use or disclose confidential information furnished under this Memorandum of Understanding for any purpose other than those stated in this Article and in the request, it must obtain the prior written consent of the Requested Authority. If the Requested Authority consents to the use of the information for purposes other than those stated, it may subject it to certain conditions.

6.6 Nothing in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 of this Article will prevent an Authority from using or disclosing information in circumstances where such use or disclosure is required in order to comply with its national Laws and Regulations.

### **Article 7 - Consultations**

The Authorities will review the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding regularly and may conduct consultations in order to improve its operation and to resolve possible difficulties.

### **Article 8-Cost of Investigation or Assistance**

If it appears to the Requested Authority that the response to a request for assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding will incur substantial costs, the Requested Authority may call for the establishment of a cost sharing arrangement before continuing to respond to such a request.

### **Article 9 - Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or modified by mutual consent. Any amendment or modification of this Memorandum of Understanding shall follow the same procedure as its entry into force.

### **Article 10 – Publication**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be published.

### **Article 11 - Entry into Force and Termination**

11.1 This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force on the date of signature, and shall continue to remain in force unless terminated by any of the Authorities at any time by giving at least thirty days prior written notice to the other Authority.

11.2 If the Requested Authority undertakes to denounce the Memorandum of Understanding, requests for information communicated before the effective date of denunciation will still be processed under this Memorandum of Understanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned duly authorized by their respective Governments have signed this memorandum of understanding.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2007, which corresponds to the \_\_\_\_\_ day 5768, in duplicate in Hebrew, Hindi and English, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE SECURITIES AND  
EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA**

**FOR THE ISRAEL SECURITIES  
AUTHORITY**

**M. DAMODARAN  
CHAIRMAN**

**MOSHE TERY  
CHAIRMAN**



## **APPENDIX A: CONTACT PERSONS**

Contact person as defined by Paragraph 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding is:

### **For SEBI**

The Division Head  
Office of International Affairs  
Securities and Exchange Board of India  
SEBI Bhavan, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Plot No. C4-A, "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex  
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