

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

1. Pending the establishment of a Branch Office Agreement, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hereinafter referred to as the Government, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, hereinafter referred to as the UNHCR, wish in a spirit of friendly co-operation to confirm the terms and conditions under which the UNHCR, within its mandate, shall:

1.1 Assume the function of providing international protection to refugees who fall within the scope of the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol and the Statute of the Office of the High Commission for refugees;

1.2 Assist the Government in its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran;

1.3 In close co-operation with the Government, seek durable solutions to the various groups of refugees in the host country.

2. To this effect, UNHCR shall:
 - 2.1 Through its representation, maintain consultations and co-operation with the Government with respect to the preparation, review and implementation of projects for refugees;
 - 2.2 Actively seek support and funding from the international donor community, as well as from other governmental and non-governmental organizations, towards such projects for refugees;
 - 2.3 In close co-operation with the Government, encourage international non-governmental organizations to participate in the implementation of programmes of humanitarian assistance to refugees;
 - 2.4 Share with officials from the Government and other national organizations technical expertise on emergency preparedness and response, programme management and international protection principles;
 - 2.5 In close co-operation with the Government, facilitate consultations with the other governments concerned, with the aim of identifying and pursuing durable solutions to the refugee problem, with special emphasis on voluntary repatriation.

3. For its part, the Government:
- 3.1 Agrees that the UNHCR maintains an office in Tehran and, as necessary, sub-offices in the provinces for providing international assistance to refugees;
 - 3.2 Shall co-operate with the UNHCR in the exercise of its functions, and shall in particular facilitate its duty of supervising the application of the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party;
 - 3.3 Shall grant the UNHCR and its personnel such facilities and exemptions as may be necessary for the speedy and efficient execution of its humanitarian programmes for refugees in the country;
 - 3.4 Shall grant UNHCR the same rate of exchange applied by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to other United Nations agencies;
 - 3.5 Shall apply to UNHCR, its property, funds and assets, and to its officials and experts on mission the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, to which the Government became party on 8 May 1947.

4. This Memorandum of Understanding, which shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both Parties, supercedes and replaces the exchanged letters between the UNHCR and the Government dated 24 July 1984 and 30 July 1984, and will remain in force until the signature by both Parties of a formal Branch Office Agreement.

5. In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly appointed representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government, respectively, have on behalf of the Parties signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done in GENEVA this day 27/11/1992.....

For the Office of the
United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees

For the Government
of the Islamic Republic
of Iran

Signature *Sadako Ogata*

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*