

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
FOR THE YEARS 2020 – 2024 (1398-1403 A.H)**

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”);

Determined to develop and strengthen the friendly relations and expand the bilateral cooperation in the areas of culture and arts,
Convinced that this cooperation will contribute to the development of the relations between the Sides and will raise awareness, particularly among the youth, regarding the history and culture of the peoples of both countries.

Have reached the following understanding:

Article1:

Both Sides welcome the high level of reciprocal and artistic cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the two countries. The Sides reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural and artistic institutions, organizations and individuals in both countries.

Article 2:

Both Sides will encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural and artistic activities of Iranian origin in the public of Austria and cultural and artistic activities of Austrian origin in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Article 3:

Both Sides will encourage the exchange of music theatre and performing arts, visual and plastic arts, traditional dance and all other artistic groups or individuals participating in tours, festivals and other cultural events, including conferences, symposia, mutual performances, workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, both Sides will encourage visits of art critics, science writers and journalists dealing with culture, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the sociological and cultural developments taking place in the other country.

Article 4:

1- Both Sides will encourage the presentation of contemporary compositions in the other country as well as direct contacts between musicians (conductors, soloists, etc.), music organizations, institutions, associations, orchestras and conservatories in the areas of classical and contemporary music, including the exchange of recordings and personal visits on a commercial and non-commercial basis.

2- Both Sides will strive to facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

Article 5:

Both Sides will encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics etc. Both Sides will also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

Article 6:

1- Both Sides will encourage the exchange of performing artists and the participation in respective festivals. The details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on the principles of reciprocity, and will be decided upon by the Sides and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

2- Both Sides will inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective relevant authorities and institutions.

Article 7:

Both Sides will cooperate in the area of fine arts, photography and design. They will encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, art experts and specialists.

Article 8:

1- Both Sides will work jointly to encourage the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their respective country into the languages of the other Side. Both Sides will also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

2- Both Sides will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops, poetry readings, festivals and literary events aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities.

3- Both Sides will encourage direct contacts between book publishers in the area of book exchange and copyright.

4- Both sides will encourage communication between the two international book fairs of Tehran and Vienna.

Article 9:

1- Both Sides will encourage the cooperation of the National Archives and Libraries in exchanging of resources produced in both countries as well as the exchange of experiences, information,

books, publications, microfilm documentation, manuscripts, experts and trainees within the given scope of the independence of these institutions. The exchanges will take place in accordance with the national laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of both Sides.

2- Both Sides will encourage the direct exchange of archivists and librarians in order to acquire information on the organization of the respective archives / libraries as well as study and research missions. Details will be determined between the relevant authorities of both Sides.

Article 10:

Both sides will facilitate the communication between designers of clothing and fabrics - museums and training centers active in the design of clothing and textiles, as well as informing each other about the national and international events in the area.

Article 11:

Both Sides will encourage cooperation between the television authorities in the two countries, as well as the exchange of materials (feature and documentary) and experts in this area, on a commercial and non - commercial basis, staff training and background material aimed at enhancing each country 's knowledge and understanding of the other country.

Article 12:

1- Both Sides will encourage the participation of films and filmmakers in each other's international film festivals. Both Sides will encourage special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of the international film festivals being held in their country.

2- Both Sides will encourage holding film weeks of the other Side in their own country. Each Side will encourage mutual visits of experts or figures in the area of cinema.

3- Both Sides welcome direct cooperation between cinema experts and cinematographers including the Farabi Cinema Foundation.

4- Both Sides welcome direct cooperation between television experts as well as film and television institutes.

Article 13:

1- Both Sides will encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information.

2- Both Sides will encourage the exchange of contemporary art exhibitions between the Austrian Federal Museums and the respective Iranian museums and the realization of joint contemporary arts projects.

Article 14:

1- Both Sides will encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, keeping each other informed about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition, they will encourage activities targeted at preserving locations of mutual interest.

2- Both Sides will encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the areas of the protection of cultural heritage, exchange of professionals and academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

3- Both Sides will encourage cooperation with a view to preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations. In accordance with their national laws and regulations, they will exchange information on protected national cultural heritage (Art 1. 4 and 5 of the UNESCO- Convention of 1970) by categories (e.g. kind, species, material, value) or individually listed items of protected national cultural heritage and on the exchange of information about legal proceedings to claim the return on illicitly

exported items of protected national cultural heritage.

4- Both Sides will encourage cooperation in the areas of archaeological excavations, urban conservation and architectural research.

5- Both Sides will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content.

6- Both Sides will encourage the exchange of experts from the areas of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture in order to exchange information on matters of their specialty within the limits of their budgetary resources.

7- Both Sides stress the importance of the UNESCO 'Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage', the Hague 'Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict' and the UNESCO "Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage". Both Sides aim at strengthening their bilateral cooperation for the creation of conditions conducive to the promotion of these Conventions

8-The Institute of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of the Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness to exchange researcher, conducting joint research projects in the areas of theory and architecture history, experimental architecture and archive of architectural art.

9- The Institute of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate in the areas related to cultural heritage, traditional arts and tourism, in particular numismatics, architecture and history studies.

Article 15:

Both Sides will encourage cultural activities of the Austrian

Cultural Forum Teheran at the Austrian Embassy Teheran and the Culture section of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna to deepen the cultural cooperation of both Sides.

Article 16:

- 1- Both Sides will enable annual visits of experts/ artists/ producers/ curators in the above mentioned various areas of arts, for a total period of not exceeding five (5) days each year. The relevant authorities both Sides will approve upon the respective projects.
- 2- The implementation of this MoU will be carried out through the relevant authorities of each Side.
- 3- The Annex 'General and Financial Provisions' will form an integral part of this MoU.
- 4- This MoU does not exclude the possibility of other exchanges in the cultural, scientific and educational areas.
- 5- Both Sides share the view that all initiatives mentioned in this MoU will be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.
- 6- This MoU will not create any rights or obligations under national or international Law. Any activities carried out pursuant to this MoU, by any of the Sides, will be done in accordance with the laws, regulations and procedures of that Side.
- 7- All differences that might arise in the course of this MoU will be settled through diplomatic channels.
- 8- This MoU will become effective on the date of signature and will remain so until 31 December 2024
- 9- This MoU can be extended for additional periods of 3 years each, by joint understanding of both Sides. Each extension will be made in writing.
- 10- This MoU can be changed or modified by joint understanding of both Sides. The changes or modifications will be made in

writing.

This MoU is presented in Tehran on 23 /02/2020 H.D, 1398/12/4 A.H in two original versions signed in German, Persian and English, all texts being equally valid. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the content of this MoU, the English text will apply.



**For The Government of
the Republic of Austria**

**Dr. Stefan Scholz
Ambassador of Republic
of Austria**

**For The Government of
the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Dr.Abozar Ebrahimi Torkaman
Head of the Islamic Culture and
Relations Organization**



ANNEX 1

GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedule of the events, will be determined by mutual consultation between the relevant authorities of both Sides.

2. The financial provisions, failing any special understandings, are adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely each Side will cover the costs of its delegations, artists and cultural projects unless otherwise decided. Medical insurance will be under the responsibility of each traveler,

3. Exchange of individuals (artists/experts etc.)

The exchange of experts will be regulated as follows:

Each Side will regularly inform the other Side of planned projects and will follow the established procedures for projects and visas.