

**AGREEMENT FOR THE
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

(Riyadh; 29 October 2019)

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the Republic of India (Hereinafter also referred to as the “Parties”):

Acknowledging their shared history, long tradition of friendship based on trust and mutual respect, and extensive cooperation across a wide range of areas;

Desiring to elevate their long-standing and multi-faceted strategic cooperation to a higher plane with focus on key areas for the prosperity of both countries and regions;

Resolving to maximise the economic potential of both countries to reflect on-going transformation of their economies in the global economic order;

Emphasising the value of the Understanding reached between HRH Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and HE Indian Prime Minister during their meeting in G 20 Summit held in Argentina, on 30 November-01 December 2018 AD, and the *Joint Statement* issued during the visit of HRH Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence to the Republic of India on 19-20 February 2019 AD;

Reaffirming that their common interests lie in promoting peaceful cooperation among nations, as well as sustainable economic growth and development;

Building on their constructive collaboration in international and regional fora;

Hereby reach the following agreement:

Article 1

Establishment of Strategic Partnership Council - Objectives

India and Saudi Arabia agree to establish the Strategic Partnership Council (referred to hereinafter as 'SPC'). The SPC is a means of planning, developing and enhancing the strategic cooperation between the Parties in various areas and is entrusted with the following core functions:

1. Enhancing the level of exchange of information between the Parties at the strategic level and deepening of mutual political trust.
2. Harnessing synergies between the development strategies of the Parties and enhancing cooperation between them in the political, economic, commercial, security, military and cultural areas, etc., in order to identify the priority areas of future cooperation, as well as supporting the cooperation between the Parties in important projects.
3. Intensifying consultation and cooperation between the Parties in the regional and international affairs of mutual interest and work on protecting and promoting their common interests.
4. Following up the implementation of SPC's decisions and for the comprehensive and effective implementation of the relevant decisions, as well as following up the performance of agreements and MoU's concluded between the two countries in various areas.

Article 2

Central Authorities

1. The SPC will consist of the following:

Level A- HRH Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence as Head of the Saudi Arabian side and HE Prime Minister of India as Head of Indian side

Level B- Chairmen of Ministerial Committees established by the Council (at a level not less than a Minister) and the representatives of the relevant government authorities on both sides in these Committees.

Level C- Chairmen of Senior Official Meetings (at a level not less than a deputy minister) and the representatives of the relevant government authorities on both sides in these meetings.

Level D- Joint Working Groups/the Joint Task Forces, as necessary and appropriate, set up at official level.

2. Each Party shall inform the other Party of its participants in the SPC, Ministerial Committees and the Supporting Senior Official Meetings/Joint Working Groups/Joint Committees and Task Forces, as well as any change to this composition in due course.

Article 3

Implementing Protocols

1. The functioning of the Strategic Partnership Council and Ministerial Committees would be adopted in their respective meetings.
2. The Parties agree to hold Meetings of the Strategic Partnership Council biennially and meetings of the Ministerial Committees annually at mutually convenient dates. The Supporting Senior Officials /Joint Working Groups/Joint Task Forces may hold meetings as and when required. Such meetings may be held alternatively in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of India with similar-level delegation and on a reciprocal basis.
3. Outcomes of the SPC's meetings and its recommendations shall be recorded for each meeting and shall be implemented in accordance with the applicable authorities and laws of each Parties.
4. If required, Extraordinary meetings of the SPC and the Ministerial Committees may be held provided the agenda of the

SPC's meetings shall be set well in time, say two (2) months prior to the date in consultation between the Parties through the diplomatic channels.

Article 4

Ministerial Committees, Senior Officials Meetings, Joint Committees/JWG/Task Force

1. Within the framework of this Agreement, India and Saudi Arabia agree to establish following Ministerial Committees:
 - A. Committee of Political, Security, Social and Cultural cooperation.
 - B. Committee of Economy and Investment.
2. The SPC will form or cancel Ministerial Committees established within the framework of the Agreement with the consent, in writing, of both Heads of the SPC.
3. The Ministerial Committee may establish or form supporting Joint Committees/Joint Working Group/Task Forces with mutual consent, in writing, of both Heads of the Ministerial Committees.

Article 5

Financial Matters

The host Side of the Council's meetings shall bear the costs of organizing and conducting the meeting as well as the costs of accommodation and transportation inside the city, while the host Side of the emanated Ministerial Committees' meetings shall only bear the costs of organizing and conducting the meetings in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

Article 6

Protection of Confidential Information

The "Contracting Parties" agree to use the mutually transmitted information only for the purposes designated for; and

cannot transmit any of this information to a third party without a written consent from the other "Contracting Party" in this respect.

Article 7

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties to the dispute.

Article 8

Amendment

This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties through an Exchange of Notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

Article 9

Nature of Agreement

This Agreement shall not be deemed to be an international convention and shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of the Parties arising out of the bilateral agreements concluded by them or the international conventions adopted or joined thereby.

Article 10

Entry into Force, Duration, Renewal and Termination

This Agreement shall be effective as on the date of its signing by the duly authorised representatives of the Parties and shall be valid for five (5) years and shall be automatically renewed for similar successive period at a time. Either Party may inform the other Party of its intention to terminate the agreement at least six(6) months in advance, in which case the agreement shall stand terminated on completion of notice period. The termination

of this Agreement shall not affect the existing agreements, memoranda of understanding and projects between the Contracting Parties.

This Agreement has been executed in Riyadh on Tuesday 1 / 3 / 1441H, corresponding to 29/10 /2019, in two (2) originals in Arabic, Hindi and English languages. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

**For the Government of the
Republic of India**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be in Devanagari script, located below the text for the Government of India.

**His Excellency
the Prime Minister**

**For the Government of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop and a horizontal stroke, located below the text for the Government of Saudi Arabia.

**HRH Crown Prince,
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Defence**