

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the cooperation in the field of seismic protection

The Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hereinafter referred to as Parties,

taking into consideration that the Republic of Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran are characterized by high seismicity and strong earthquakes in both countries cause mass destruction and numerous human losses, which are major threat to human life and development due to continuous urbanization of the earthquake prone areas, recurrence of strong earthquakes in seismogenic sources, high probability of the following strong seismic events, low seismic resistance of existing buildings and structures in relation to actual seismic hazard, insufficient preparedness of the population, local and state management bodies and many other reasons, which lead to the high seismic vulnerability of both countries and influence on their sustainable development;

admitting the need of carrying out the coordinated efforts on ensuring the security and sustainable development of both countries, the Parties agreed to as the following:

Article 1

The Parties agree to realize cooperation on seismic protection in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding, legislation of their countries and international law standards.

Article 2

The Parties will realize the cooperation stipulated by this Memorandum of Understanding in the following fields, in particular:

general strategy of seismic risk reduction;
scientific, technological and socio-economic aspects of seismic risk reduction;
development of state laws and regulations on seismic protection;
seismic risk reduction management mobilizing local communities, state governmental bodies and interstate agreements;
establishment of regional seismic risk reduction and protection body.

Article 3

The realization of this Memorandum of Understanding's fulfillment is entrusted to the authorized body by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and to the authorized body by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Coordination meeting of the appropriate bodies of Armenia and Iran is to be held at least once a year.

The Parties assign one responsible person each who supervises implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. They must have at least one meeting a year in Armenia or in Iran for discussing this Memorandum of Understanding implementation progress and specific plan activities for each following year.

Article 4

The Parties make up joint expert working teams and participate in joint development of mutual research projects and normative documentation for earthquake prone Marzes (Regions) of the Republic of Armenia and States of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of

- seismic hazard and risk assessment;
- seismic hazard and geotechnical microzonation;
- vulnerability reduction in urban areas, including reinforcement and upgrading of existing buildings and structures;
- public awareness, people education and training;
- early warning and notification and rapid exchange of information on strong earthquake;
- risk management, including emergency response and rescue operations;
- disaster relief and people rehabilitation;
- insurance;
- partnership establishment, involving public and private organizations;
- internationalization of National Programs on the base of wide spread international co-operation.

Article 5

The Parties exchange information on modern scientific and technical achievements (in accordance with separate agreements) in the field of seismic hazard assessment and seismic risk reduction. The Parties organize the publication of the results of joint investigations. The Parties participate in joint international Projects and Programs.

Article 6

The Parties raise funds for joint projects from different international foundations.

Cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to the availability of appropriate personnel and funds. The Parties in writing, before the commencement of each project, shall agree upon the financial arrangements.

Article 7

Results obtained from joint activities are the property of the Parties and may be given to a third side only after both Parties agreement.

Article 8

The Parties agree that representatives by the Parties authorities may conclude separate agreements both with each other and with state management bodies of their countries.

Any changes and amendments under this Memorandum of Understanding could be submitted on mutual consent of Parties in a separate Protocol. The Protocol enters into force in a similar way as this Memorandum of Understanding and represents its inseparable part.

Article 9

This Memorandum of Understanding comes into force upon the day of getting through diplomatic way the second written presentation of instate procedures' fulfillment required by the national law of the Parties and essential for its coming into force.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid for 5 years. The validity of this Memorandum of Understanding will be spontaneously extended for the subsequent 5 years periods unless either Party submits a written notice about its intention to terminate it at least 6 month prior to this Memorandum of Understanding expiration.

The validity of this Memorandum of Understanding may be ceased and terminated at any time by Parties mutual consent or in order stipulated by the Parties' national law with compulsory written notification of counter Party about the date of termination

The validity of this Memorandum of Understanding may be ceased after 12 months from the date of either Party intention of termination notification submission to counter Party.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the validity or duration of projects under this Agreement that are initiated prior to such termination.

Done in Tehran, on December 27, 2001, in two original copies, each in Armenian, Persian and English languages the texts of which are identical and equal valid.

In case of disagreement in interpretation of the concepts of this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will refer to the text in English.

The Memorandum of Understanding has entered into force on May 22, 2002.