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**MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE IRAN NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
AND  
THE NATIONAL NATURAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Iran National Science Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and The National Natural Science Foundation of the People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties"),

Noting the present extent of collaboration in science and technology between Iranian and Chinese scientists;

Seeking to promote an increased level of collaboration between scientists of the two countries;

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1  
Objectives**

Collaborative activity between the Parties, or facilitated by the Parties for the scientists of both countries, will be undertaken within the scientific remits and budgetary appropriations of each Party. The Parties will each use their own assessment and funding mechanisms for proposals for collaborative activity.

**Article 2  
Areas of Cooperation**

Collaborative activities will be undertaken in the fields of natural sciences, in areas of mutual interest and priority. The Parties will first leverage and develop existing bilateral collaborations. In the future, Parties may choose to focus on specific areas, and append such choices as Annexes to this MOU, pursuant to Article 6.

**Article 3**  
**Forms of Cooperation-Joint Workshop**

The Parties recognise that as a first step, a practical means of initiating collaboration between scientists of the two countries is provided by holding joint workshops of researchers from each country, which will be held in China and in Iran alternately. The host Party will meet in-country expenses, and the other Party will be responsible for the international travel costs of its country's delegation.

**Article 4**  
**Forms of Cooperation-Personnel Exchange and Joint Research**

The Parties undertake to encourage and support other forms of collaboration, including personnel exchange for scientists and joint research in areas or subjects identified as priorities by both sides. Such collaboration can be based on the relationships built by joint workshops indicated in Article 3, or on other established relationships.

**Article 5**  
**Mechanism**

The Parties will jointly carry out the following activities:

- (i) to identify priority areas for cooperation, taking into account both academic and financial feasibility;
- (ii) to establish a framework of cooperation for each selected area (modes of cooperation, financing, etc);
- (iii) to review on-going programmes, and to consult each other about the continuation of such programmes;

- (iv) to maintain close exchange of information between each other;
- (v) to ensure that cooperation will bring real benefits to the development of science and technology in both countries.

#### **Article 6**

#### **Enter into Force, Extension, Termination, Modification and Settlement of Disputes**

This MoU will enter into force from the date of its signature and shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years; and shall be automatically extended for further periods of five (5) years, unless one of the Parties give a written notice to the other side of its intention to terminate this MoU six (6) months before the intended expiry date.

The termination of this MOU will not affect the validity or duration of cooperative activities formalized while it was in effect, unless otherwise jointly decided by the Parties.

This MOU is not meant to be legally binding and may be modified by mutual written consent of the Parties. Any disagreement or dispute will be resolved amicably by mutual consultation and negotiation without reference to any third party or international tribunal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised there to by the Parties have signed this MoU at the place and on the day month and year hereinafter mentioned.

Signed in duplicate authentic copies in English at Beijing on 3 July, 2017.

**Point of Contact**

INSF and NSFC will assign a person as the contact point to coordinate and implement the tasks indicated in this MOU.

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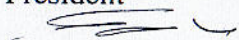
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For the Iran National Science  
Foundation of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran

For the National Natural Science  
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Prof. Nosratollah Zargham  
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