AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of Moldova, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

TAKING into account the principles of state sovereignty,

ACKNOWLEDGING the necessity of environmentally sound and sustainable development,

RECALLING the friendly relations between the Republic of Moldova and the State of Israel,

DESIRING to develop and promote regular bilateral cooperation between the Parties in the sphere of sustainable development and particularly in the sphere of environmental protection,

CONSIDERING that many problems of environmental protection require cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels and that such cooperation can contribute not only to the protection of the environment at the local and national level but also at the global level,

CONVINCED that cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection can provide an important contribution to further development of the friendly relations between both states,

RECOGNIZING the importance of the *Declaration on Environment and Development* of the United Nations Conference (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the *United Nations Millennium Declaration* (2000) and the *Declaration and Action Plan adopted in Johannesburg Summit Rio +10* (Johannesburg, 2002), and taking into account the upcoming Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall develop and extend mutual cooperation in the field of environmental protection in the interest of both countries, on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Article 2

Cooperation, under the present Agreement, shall be carried out using the international forms and instruments of cooperation, taking into account other international agreements to which the Republic of Moldova and the State of Israel are Parties, and national legislation of both states in the following fields:

a) enhancing general instruments for environmental management, including economic ones, capacity building and enhancement of mechanisms for implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation;

b) environmental impact assessment;

c) prevention and reduction of environmental hazards and risks;

d) protection of air, water and soil against pollution, including the introduction of limit values for emissions based on the best available techniques and practices;

e) sustainable water resource management, including water conservation and efficient use of water resources; wastewater treatment and effluent reuse for agricultural purposes; construction and reconstruction of wastewater treatment plants;

f) environmentally sustainable management of chemicals, including persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals and products containing these substances;

g) identification of contaminated sites, mapping and rehabilitation;

h) biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, reforestation, and protected areas management;

i) scientific research, and environmental monitoring;

j) improvement of environmental conditions at the local level;

k) sustainable municipal and industrial (hazardous and non-hazardous) waste management, including recycling, prevention of waste generation and of illegal waste traffic;

l) environmental education and awareness;

m) promotion of environmental technologies, specifically in the fields of water and renewable energies;

n) staff training on issues of environmental protection and efficient use of natural

resources; and

o) other areas of mutual interest for cooperation related to environmental protection and nature conservation.

Article 3

(1) Cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection shall be carried out by mutual consent of the Parties and may include:

a) exchange of professional delegations, qualified experts, and researchers;

b) arrangement of, as appropriate, conferences, symposia, and expert discussions with participation of representatives of the other Party to this Agreement;

c) development and implementation of joint programs and projects;

d) exchange of information in the field of environmental protection;

e) support for international projects to solve global or regional environmental problems; and

f) any other form of cooperation which the Parties consider necessary.

(2) The Parties may also agree on other forms of cooperation.

Article 4

Proceeding from the aim of the present Agreement, the Parties shall promote the establishment of direct contacts and develop cooperation between institutions, organizations and companies of both states involved in issues of environmental protection.

Article 5

(1) In order to ensure an efficient collaboration in the framework of the present Agreement, the Competent Authorities of the Parties may conclude, on the basis of this Agreement, implementation agreements and/or plans of cooperation, which may include details of activities of cooperation, time frames and financial provisions.

(2) In order to discuss current issues of cooperation, the Parties may arrange by mutual consent, once a year, meetings of their representatives, alternatively, in the Republic of Moldova and in the State of Israel.

(3) Within three months after signing the present Agreement, the Parties shall notify each other, in written form, about the competent authorities and institutions and the names of

responsible contact persons for coordination and implementation of the cooperation under this Agreement.

Article 6

(1) Cooperative activities carried out in accordance with this Agreement shall be subject to availability of appropriate funds and other resources of each Party. Unless otherwise agreed, each Party shall bear the costs of its own participation to the activities carried out under this Agreement. The hosting Party shall assure premises and necessary equipment to hold joint events.

(2) Information to be transferred to the other Party shall be provided free of charge. No confidential information shall be exchanged between the Parties in pursuance to this Agreement. The exchange of information and its conveyance to third parties will take place in accordance with the legal provisions in force in the countries of the Parties and in keeping with the rights of third parties and international obligations.

Article 7

The Parties shall not be responsible for liabilities of organizations and companies arising out of contracts and agreements concluded with reference to the present Agreement.

Article 8

The present Agreement shall not prejudice the rights and obligations arising out of other effective Agreements concluded by the Parties.

Article 9

(1) Any disputes, which may appear between the Parties, concerning the application and interpretation of the provisions of the present Agreement shall be settled in a friendly manner, through consultancies and negotiation between the Parties.

(2) This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Parties, and in writing. All amendments shall enter into force according to the provisions of Art. 10 para. (1) of this Agreement.

Article 10

(1) This Agreement is concluded for a period of five years and will enter into force on the date of receipt of the last written notification through diplomatic channels, through which the Parties inform each other about the completion of internal procedures necessary for its entry into force.

(2) The validity of the Agreement shall be automatically extended for additional five-year periods, unless either Party expresses its wish to terminate it by means of a written notice at least three months before the validity of the Agreement expires.

(3) Unless otherwise specified by the Parties, termination of the Agreement's validity shall not affect the validity of contracts and protocols signed in the framework of the present Agreement and shall not result in the ceasing of the activities in any project which has already started.

Done at in Jerusalem on May 14 2012, which corresponds with the 22nd day of Iyar, 5772 of the Hebrew Calendar, in two original copies, each in the Moldavian, Hebrew and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the State of Israel	For the Government of the Republic of Moldova