

SIGNAL GROUP – CONSUMER UNITY AND TRUST SOCIETY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made and entered into as of April 15, 2025 by and between:

SIGNAL Group (hereinafter referred to as 'SIGNAL'), a non-profit think tank dedicated to empowering Israel to navigate China's global rise through capacity building, policy entrepreneurship, and fostering mutual understanding of Chinese statecraft and Middle Eastern dynamics. SIGNAL operates through research, educational programs, and policy dialogues. Its office is located at 33 Zeev Jabotinsky St., Ramat Gan, Israel.

AND

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (hereinafter referred to as 'CUTS') International, a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organisation (NGO) registered under the Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1958, with its registered office at Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, and Rajasthan, India.

WHEREAS SIGNAL redresses misconceptions about Israel in China through policy work and by collaborating with Chinese universities interested in teaching Israel Studies and since 2022, also focuses on cultivating engagement with India and Indo-Pacific through its Global Israel Initiative (GII), seeking opportunities for Israel to forge new coalitions and diplomatic initiatives with partners in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe.

WHEREAS, CUTS is a public policy research and advocacy group focused on consumer rights, sustainable development, and good governance. CUTS International's Global Affairs centre focuses on the security, trade and strategic issues in the international arena at large and Indo-Pacific, and I2U2 (India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States) in particular.


Carine Witte

CUTS International too has set up an initiative the Indo-Pacific Civil Society Forum (IPCSF), that aims to foster dialogue, share insights, and promotes collaborative efforts among civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Indo-Pacific region. The goal of the forum is to contribute to the region's stability and prosperity through inclusive and people-centric development.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises and the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for collaboration between SIGNAL and CUTS on research, analysis, capacity building, and networking related to strategic affairs, trade, business and investment and their impact between India-Israel and across the Indo-Pacific and Middle East, with a specific focus on:

- Promoting mutual understanding and cooperation on bilateral and international affairs, with emphasis on trade connectivity, strategic dynamics, and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific and Middle East.
- Exploring the nexus between governance, economic prosperity, and the strategic interests of global stakeholders, including governments and key firms.
- Leveraging SIGNAL's expertise in Sino-Israeli relations and CUTS' global trade and policy networks to enhance informed decision-making and strengthen bilateral and multilateral relationships.
- Advancing the CUTS Indo-Pacific Civil Society Forum (IPCSF), a platform fostering dialogue on trade, connectivity, and strategic resilience in the Indo-Pacific. SIGNAL's insights into China's regional strategies and Middle Eastern intersections can enrich the Forum's scope, providing a nuanced perspective on China's influence and Israel's role in the region.

2. Areas of Collaboration


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SIGNAL and CUTS agree to collaborate in the following ways:

- Jointly conduct research on trade, strategic issues, technology, and connectivity within the Indo-Pacific and Middle East contexts, including the implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- Co-develop publications, policy briefs, and reports, such as contributions to SIGNAL's "China Policy Insights," (quarterly white paper) to disseminate insights on international relations and regional challenges. Share resources to enhance the reach and impact of these materials.
- Organise seminars, workshops, webinars, and conferences to facilitate dialogue among policymakers, scholars, and practitioners on Sino-Israeli, Indo-Israeli, and broader bilateral defence relations, fostering networking and informed debate.
- Develop educational programmes and exchanges to build expertise in international affairs, including expanding Israel Studies initiatives in India, capitalising on SIGNAL's fellowship for faculty to study in Israel, and exploring reciprocal opportunities for Indian studies in Israel.
- Engage in information sharing to impact policy thinking on mutual interests, such as trade facilitation, strategic connectivity, and resilience against geopolitical shifts, leveraging combined networks for greater global impact.
- Provide constructive inputs for policy formulation, particularly on trade and security frameworks affecting India, Israel, and their partners.
- Promote awareness and informed public debate on the strategic and trade dimensions of the Indo-Pacific, Middle East, and Indian Ocean regions.
- Enhance IPCSF's agenda by offering analyses of China's economic and strategic engagements, alongside Israel's growing ties with Indo-Pacific nations, by jointly organising Track 2 dialogue discussions on trade corridors and security frameworks.

4. Term and Termination:


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This MOU will be effective from the date of execution by both parties. This MOU may be terminated by either party upon 90 days' written notice to the other party.

5. Confidentiality:

The parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of all non-public information received from the other party under this MOU.

6. Dispute Resolution:

Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MOU shall be settled through mutual consultation.

7. Entire Agreement:

This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous communications, representations, or agreements, whether oral or written.

8. Amendment:

This MOU may be amended only by a written agreement signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this MOU as of the date first written above.



Carine Witte

 **SIGNAL**
קבוצת סיגנל GROUP
中以学术交流促进协会

For SIGNAL Group: *Carice Witte*

Name: Carice Witte

Title: Executive Director


CUTS 
International

For Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International:

Name: Pradeep S Mehta

Title: Secretary General