

US-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM – CONSUMER UNITY AND TRUST SOCIETY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made and entered into as of April 12, 2024, by and between:

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum a non-profit organisation established in 2017 with its registered office at 2550 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20037 USA (hereinafter referred to as "USISPF").

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (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 (hereinafter referred to as "CUTS").

WHEREAS, USISPF is dedicated to creating powerful strategic partnerships between the U.S. and India, focusing on business and government relations to address key challenges affecting the business environment. Its mission includes promoting policy advocacy that leads to economic growth, entrepreneurship, employment generation, and innovation.

WHEREAS, CUTS is a public policy research and advocacy group focused on consumer rights, sustainable development, and good governance. CUTS International's Global Affairs/Washington DC centre focuses on the defence, Trade and Strategic issues in the International arena.

The CUTS International Washington DC Center was established in 2018 as a nonpartisan, independent think and action tank dedicated to promoting closer U.S.-India cooperation in the areas of trade and strategic areas.

USISPF and CUTS both recognise the increasing importance of understanding the inter-linkages between strategic affairs, trade, and security within and beyond the Indo-Pacific.

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 USISPF and CUTS on research, analysis, advocacy, capacity building, and networking related to strategic affairs, trade, and their impact within and across the Indo-Pacific region, with a specific focus on:

- 1.1. Strategic affairs and trade postures: this emphasises analysing strategic and trade capabilities of regional players and how they might influence regional stability or escalation.
- 1.2. Evolving security threats: this includes maritime security concerns, non-traditional threats like cyber-attacks and terrorism, and the impact of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence on warfare.
- 1.3. Good governance and Industry development: this underscores the link between responsible governance, human rights practices, and economic prosperity bilaterally with long-term regional security.

- 1.4. Economic Security: this broadens focus on research in the economy and trade for a resilient supply chain, prosperous growth, countering neo-colonist approach for stability and security in the region.
- 1.5. Strengthening global strategic networking and collaborations: to address common issues related to business and help reach out to governmental bodies in both countries and leverage global networks to facilitate strategic issues, trade including SMEs and tech companies to help them to match-make and collaborate.

These elements provide a more comprehensive framework for collaboration between USISPF and CUTS, with a long-term vision to address bilateral matters of strategic importance to India and the US.

2. Areas of Collaboration:

USISPF and CUTS agree to collaborate in the following ways:

- 2.1 organising a series of roundtables in US and India on the broader areas of trade and strategic affairs
- 2.2 Provide constructive inputs for policy-formulation.
- 2.3 Promote awareness and informed public debate on trade and strategic dimensions of India and the US and in the larger Indo-Pacific region.
- 2.4 organising workshops, networking events and seminars to discuss and disseminate research findings and policy interventions.
- 2.5 Sharing relevant research findings, publications, and expertise to further the understanding of the inter-linkages between trade, economy, and strategic issues with

2.6 Developing and implementing capacity building programs for stakeholders, including policymakers, civil society organisations, and the public on the mentioned focus areas.

2.7 Providing networking opportunities to further buttress the US-India business relations with a long-term perspective and leverage our connections with business organisations and civil society organisations in both countries, as well as the Indo Pacific region.

4. Term and Termination:

This MOU will be effective from the date of execution by both parties. This MOU may be terminated by either party upon 30 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.

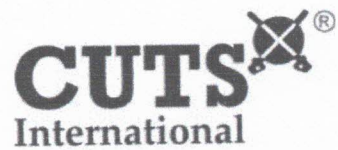
7. Entire Agreement:

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.



For US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF):

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mukesh Aghi", is written over a horizontal line.

Name: Mukesh Aghi

Title: President and Chief Executive Officer



For Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pradeep S Mehta", is written over a horizontal line.

Name: Pradeep S Mehta

Title: Secretary General