

FRAMEWORK FOR THE U.S. - INDIA DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP

1. Defense and security cooperation is a key component of the bilateral relationship between India and the United States, and has evolved to become a vital pillar of engagement between the two countries. The United States and India have created a wide-ranging, strategic partnership that reflects their common principles, democratic traditions, long-term strategic convergence, and shared national interests. These interests include:

- maintaining peace and security;
- defeating terrorism and violent extremism;
- preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and associated materials, data, and technologies;
- supporting a rule-based order, protecting the free flow of commerce.

2. In 1995, the *Agreed Minute on Defense Relations between the United States and India* was signed - beginning a new era in U.S.-India defense relations. In 2005, the two sides reflected the continued evolution of the relationship by signing the *New Framework for the U.S.-India Defense Relationship*, which charted an ambitious course for the future development of the India - U.S. partnership. In 2013, the *Joint Principles for Defense Cooperation* stated that India and the United States share common security interests and place each other at the same level as their closest partners - confirming that this would also apply with respect to defense technology transfers, licensing, trade, research, co-development, and co-production involving defense articles and services, including advanced and sophisticated technology.

3. The renewal of the 2005 Framework marks a new chapter in the relationship between two strategic partners. The renewal builds upon the shared understandings and successes of the past, and charts a path-forward for the next ten years. Through defense dialogue mechanisms, military-to-military interactions and exercises, and

increased opportunities in defense technology collaboration, the United States and India have expanded the potential of the partnership and bilateral collaboration.

4. In pursuit of a shared vision for an expanded defense partnership, both sides determined that their defense establishments are to:

- A. Conduct regular service-specific, joint, and combined exercises and exchanges;
- B. Collaborate in multinational operations whenever it is in their common interest to do so;
- C. Enhance cooperation in military training and education, including instructor and student exchanges and collaboration between national defense universities;
- D. Strengthen the capabilities of their defence establishments to promote security and defeat terrorism;
- E. Expand interaction with other nations in ways that promote regional and global peace and stability;
- F. Enhance capabilities to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- G. Increase exchanges of intelligence;
- H. In the context of this strategic relationship, continue to strengthen two-way U.S.-India defense trade. The United States and India commit to work to conclude defense transactions, not as ends in and of themselves, but as means to strengthen both countries' security, to reinforce the strategic partnership, to achieve greater interaction and cooperation between their armed forces, and to build greater understanding between defense establishments;
- I. Exchange experiences and practices in operating common defense platforms; and increase capacity to use such platforms optimally;

- J. Explore collaboration relating to missile defense;
- K. Strengthen the abilities of their militaries to respond quickly to disaster situations, including in combined operations;
- L. Assist in building worldwide capacity to conduct successful peacekeeping operations, with a focus on enabling other countries to field trained, capable forces for these operations;
- M. Conduct routine exchanges on defense strategy and defense transformation;
- N. Continue strategic-level discussions by senior leadership from the U.S. Department of Defense and India's Ministry of Defence, in which the two sides exchange perspectives on international security issues of common interest, with the goal of increasing mutual understanding, promoting shared objectives, and developing common approaches; and
- O. Enhance cooperation toward maritime security and to increase each other's capability to secure the free movement of lawful commerce and freedom of navigation across sea lines of communication, in accordance with the principles of international law.

5. The Defense Policy Group (DPG) is to continue serving as the primary mechanism to guide the U.S.-India strategic defense partnership, recognizing the significant contributions the meetings have made to the overall defense relationship. The Defense Policy Group is to make appropriate adjustments to the structure and frequency of its meetings and of its subgroups, as determined jointly by the Defense Policy Group co-chairs, so that it remains an effective mechanism to advance U.S.-India defense cooperation.

6. The sub-groups of the DPG are to continue to meet regularly and to report to the DPG. These sub-groups and their objectives are as follows:

A. The Defence Procurement and Production Group (DPPG), co-chaired by the Director General (Acquisition) and the Director, Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), is to review government-to-government defense acquisitions (including hybrid programs) and other defense trade issues.

B. Senior Technology Security Group (STSG): The objective of the STSG is to develop understanding of export licensing and technology security processes and practices and to establish a technology security dialogue for adequate protection for advanced defense technologies.

C. Joint Technical Group (JTG): The JTG provides a forum for discussion and coordination of defense research and production matters.

D. Military Cooperation Group (MCG): The MCG serves as the primary forum to guide cooperation between the armed forces of both sides.

E. Executive Steering Groups (ESGs): In conjunction with the MCG, the ESGs function as the primary mechanisms to develop military service-related cooperation.

7. Recognizing the transformative effect that the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) can have, the two sides have established a DTTI Group,- which is to work towards resolving process issues impeding cooperation and the alignment of systems; increasing the flow of technology and investment; developing capabilities and partnership in co- development and co-production; and intensifying cooperation in research and development. The progress made by the DTTI Group is to be presented to the DPG.

8. The initiatives and activities described above are to proceed in reliance upon this Framework for guidance on the principles and objectives of the U.S.-India strategic relationship, and are to strive to achieve those objectives.

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9. This Framework is to be effective from the date of its signature and is to continue in effect for 10 years unless it is revised or terminated in writing. Disagreement, if any, regarding Framework matters is to be resolved through mutual consultations.

10. This Framework is to guide the two sides in further developing bilateral defense ties.

Signed in **New Delhi** on **03rd June, 2015** in two originals in English.

Secretary of Defence



(Ashton Carter)
For and on behalf of the
Government of the United
States of America

Minister of Defence



(Manohar Parrikar)
For and on behalf of the
Government of the Republic of
India