

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA (hereinafter "the Parties") RECOGNIZE THAT:

WHEREAS, the Republic of Armenia and the State of California share close ties and California is home to the largest Armenian Community in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Parties seek to expand the current level of cooperation between Armenia and California in, but not limited to, the fields of trade and commerce, alternative energy, environmental technology, information technologies, health, food and agriculture, tourism, higher education and science and other technology-based industry sectors, business innovation, research and development; and

WHEREAS, the State of California's University of California was instrumental in the founding of the American University of Armenia and has had an ongoing, longstanding, deep and beneficial relationship with the American University of Armenia since its earliest days; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is home to the largest public university system in the United States and the largest in-state innovation network in the United States, which offer educational templates and technology-commercialization opportunities for the Republic of Armenia.

Have agreed upon the following:

**Article 1
Objective**

The Parties hereby sign this Framework Agreement for the purposes of fostering economic cooperation and development, facilitating joint research and development, and enhancing business relationships and educational opportunities that will, in turn, foster job creation and incubate global solutions from joint Armenia-California innovation initiatives.

Article 2

Areas of Cooperation

The Parties plan to facilitate collaborations between Armenian and Californian educators, entrepreneurs and researchers through the encouragement of exhibitions, seminars and visits.

The Parties intend to support and encourage further development of interpersonal contacts and exchanges, and promotion of mutual cooperation, understanding, and friendship through ad hoc academic collaboration, trade delegations, and professional exchanges between Armenia and California in key sectors including, but not limited to:

- a.) Water Conservation and Management
- b.) Alternative Energy and Related Clean Technologies
- c.) Health and Biotechnology
- d.) Information Technologies
- e.) Trade and Commerce
- f.) Arts and Culture
- g.) Higher Education
- h.) Agricultural Technologies
- i.) Tourism
- j.) Emergency Preparedness and Response

Article 3

Specific Activities

The Parties intend to encourage the creation of public-private partnerships between Armenian and Californian entities in the areas of higher education, economic development, social entrepreneurship, or academic research related to the above activities.

The Parties intend to encourage the strengthening of sister city programs between Armenia and California cities, which are designed to enhance opportunities for people-to-people cultural and educational exchanges, economic partnerships, and social entrepreneurship on the local level.

The Parties intend to encourage continued collaboration between Armenia and California universities, public and private research institutions.

The Parties intend to welcome trade and tourism promotion officials and delegations. To this end, the State of California intends to establish a Trade and Services Desk in Armenia to be utilized on an as-needed basis by California's trade representative for Europe and Eurasia to promote and encourage two-way trade and investment by Californian and Armenian businesses and enterprises. The Trade and Services desk

would serve as a platform to provide information and contacts for entrepreneurs from both California and Armenia who wish to connect with counterparts in order to engage in trade and/or commercial activities in either goods and/or services or both.

The Parties intend to encourage the work of non-governmental organizations in Armenia and will seek to help them to develop capabilities and build support through exchanges with similarly oriented non-governmental organizations in California.

Article 4
Interpretation and Implementation

This Framework Agreement serves only as a record of the Parties' intentions and does not constitute or create any legally binding or enforceable rights or obligations, implied or expressed.

This Framework Agreement does not involve the exchange of funds, nor does it represent any obligation of funds by the Parties. All costs that may be undertaken pursuant to this Framework Agreement will be assumed by the Parties that incurs them, unless otherwise agreed by future written agreement. All activities referenced in this Framework Agreement are subject to the availability of the required resources on the part of Parties, and may be subject to appropriation by the relevant legislative body of the respective Party.

Any personnel designated or assigned to implement activities referenced in this Framework Agreement shall work under the direction and responsibility of the organization or institution by whom they are employed or contractually retained and will at all times maintain their employment or contractual relationship with that organization or institution. Their work on activities to implement this Framework Agreement will not create an employer-employee relationship with any other organization or institution or with the Parties, and in no case shall any other organization or institution be considered as a substitute or joint employer of the designated or assigned personnel.

All activities undertaken pursuant to this Framework Agreement, and all personnel designated or assigned to implement activities referenced in this Framework Agreement are subject to the applicable laws of the receiving country.

The respective Points of Contact for each Party concerning all communications or information exchanges for this Framework Agreement shall be the following:

For California: Senior Advisor for International Affairs and Trade
 Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

For Armenia: Advisor to the Minister of Economy

Nothing in this Framework Agreement limits the right of either Party to establish similar agreements with other entities, nor does cooperation pursuant to this Framework Agreement affect the rights and/or obligations of the Parties under other international agreements.

Article 5
Final Provisions

This Framework Agreement shall become effective upon its signature, and shall remain in effect for an indefinite duration, subject to the provisions below.

This Framework Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual consent of the Parties. Any modification shall be made in writing and specify the date on which such modification is to become effective.

Either Party may withdraw from this Framework Agreement at any time by providing thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other Party.

Signed in New York on September 24th, 2019, in two original copies, each in the Armenian and English languages. Both texts are equally authentic.

**ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



Governor
Gavin Newsom

**ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**



Minister of Foreign Affairs
Zohrab Mnatsakanyan