

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

SLOVAK OFFICE OF STANDARDS, METROLOGY AND TESTING

AND

CUBAN NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing (hereinafter "SOSMT") on the one hand and the Cuban National Bureau of Standards (hereinafter referred to as "NC"), on the other hand, hereinafter collectively referred to as "participants",

Pointing out the importance of bilateral cooperation in removing technical barriers to trade, and thus to reduce the cost of entities in both countries

In view of the continued good bilateral relations in the building of effective metrology infrastructure

Stressing the important role of the Slovak Republic as a partner of the Republic of Cuba in the development of the national metrology

Referring to the report of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission SR-Cuba in 2009

Recalling SOSMT status as a government agency in the field of standardization, metrology, testing and accreditation and NC status as a government agency in the field of standardization, certification, inspection and metrology

Stressing the need to enhance the Cuban metrology, as defined by lineament 216 of the document Socio-economic policy and the revolution that was approved by the 6th Congress of CP Cuba in 2011

Pursuing a mutually beneficial partnership between the national metrology institutes of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Cuba

They agreed to conclude the following Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement")

Article 1

Purpose

- 1.1 The Agreement provides a general framework for cooperation between SOSMT and NC in the field of the standards, quality and metrology infrastructure, with particular emphasis on metrology.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Agreement is to intensify cooperation between participants in the building of standards, quality and metrology infrastructure in order to contribute significantly to the elimination of technical barriers to the mutual trade, and thus to intensify trade, investment and co-operation between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Cuba.

Article 2

Scope of cooperation

SOSMT will:

- 2.1 support Cuban activities related to the application of the standards, quality and metrology infrastructure in the Cuban economy, aimed to reduce technical barriers to mutual trade,
- 2.2 provide expert advice and assistance in building standards, quality and metrology infrastructure with particular emphasis on metrology,
- 2.3 support the activities of the National Institute of Metrology of Cuba to raise its professional competence,
- 2.4 contribute to the training of Cuban experts in the field of quality infrastructure, particularly in the field of metrology,
- 2.5 cooperate in obtaining funds to support the activities covered by this Agreement,
- 2.6 provide expert advice and assistance in order to share Slovak best practice experiences with Cuban partners in areas of quality management systems, national quality awards and implementation of quality tools into small enterprises and cooperatives, according to the objectives mutually agreed by the SOSMT and NC.

NC will:

- 2.7 provide expert opinions, analysis and proactive suggestions in development of planning documents of the common cooperation as well as the rules relating to the administration and implementation of joint projects in accordance with the rules of donors of financial resources,
- 2.8 actively promote the elimination of technical barriers to the mutual trade, with an emphasis on the application of standards, quality and metrology infrastructure, particularly in the field of metrology,
- 2.9 apply knowledge gained in the training of Cuban specialists in the national metrology institute to increase the level of technical competence of the Cuban

National Institute of Metrology, which will be internationally recognized and widely accepted,

- 2.10 promote the workshops, seminars and other forms of mutual collaboration leading to better application of knowledge gained from Slovak experiences in standards, metrology, quality management systems and institutional support of small enterprises,
- 2.11 seek opportunities to finance activities covered by this Agreement.

Article 3

The range of activities and funding

- 3.1 Scope, method of implementation, method of financing and other details of any particular action under this Agreement will be defined by the special agreement concluded between SOSMT and NC for the purpose.
- 3.2 This Agreement shall not entitle participants to fund the agreed actions by the other party.

Article 4

Duration and termination

- 4.1 The Agreement shall enter into force upon its signing and shall be concluded for an indefinite period.
- 4.2 The Agreement may, by mutual agreement by the parties, be amended as needed. Any changes to be made shall be in writing.
- 4.3 Upon written notice to the other party one month in advance, either party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement.

Article 5

Mutual consultation and application of the provisions of the Agreement

- 5.1 Participants will consult any questions that may arise in the implementation of this Agreement.
- 5.2 Conflicts that may arise in the implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by direct negotiation between the parties.

Article 6

Addresses

According to this Agreement, any correspondence between the parties will be implemented through the following addresses:

Úrad pre normalizáciu, metrológiu a skúšobníctvo SR

P.O. Box 76
Štefanovičova 3
810 05 Bratislava 15
The Slovak Republic

Oficina Nacional de Normalizacion
Calle E # 261 entre 11 y 13 Vedado, Plaza
La Habana,
CUBA

In Havana, November 5, 2012, in English, Spanish and Slovak, in two original copies each.

SOSMT President

NC Director General