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## Memorandum of Understanding

Between:

**The Parliament of Albania**, located in Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, Tirana, represented by its Speaker, **H.E Mr. Gramoz Ruçi** hereinafter referred to as: “**the Parliament**”,

and

**The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**, international intergovernmental organization, established by the General Assembly of the United Nations; located in: Rr. “Skënderbeg” Str., Volkswagen building, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Tirana, represented by the Representative a.i., **Dr. Ezio Gianni Murzi**, hereinafter referred to as “**UNICEF**”.

The Parliament and UNICEF shall be referred to as the “**Parties**”.

*Considering that:*



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- A. The Parliament holds a crucial role in advancing a legislative agenda that upholds and promotes children's rights;
- B. The Parliament is the most important constitutional body that through the parliamentary oversight functions ensures the implementation of legislation by the public authorities, for the realisation of children's rights;
- C. The Parliament is the institution that approves the budget the executive branch requires, to implement public policies, including those for the advancement of child rights and monitors government expenditures;
- D. The Parliament is a key institution that brings to the centre of public discourse the issues affecting human rights of children and it may model children's participation in decision-making;
- E. The Parliament is the driving force behind the Justice System Reform;
- F. UNICEF as part of the Programme of Cooperation between the United Nations and the Government of Albania (2012-2016) has advocated for the establishment of the parliamentary group "Friends of Children" (PGFC) and will continue to provide technical support to it as part of the Programme of Cooperation (2017-2021);
- G. UNICEF, as part of its mandate, supports the Parliament and its standing and ad hoc committees, sub-committees as well as relevant group(s) of Parliament members in strengthening their legislative, oversight and public awareness roles and advancing the children's human rights as well as the equality and equity agenda;



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*The Parties, agree to the following:*

## ARTICLE 1

### Purpose of the Memorandum:

The Memorandum aims at the establishment of institutional cooperation among the Parties with a view to strengthen the legislative, public oversight and public awareness role of the Parliament, its standing and ad hoc commissions and sub-commissions, including the group of parliamentarians “Friends of children” to ensure advancement of the human rights of the child.

Through this Memorandum, the Parties shall determine the joint commitment and obligations, necessary for the implementation of activities.

## ARTICLE 2

### Legal Basis

2.1 The Agreement is based on:

a) Basic Cooperation Agreement signed by the Government of Albania and UNICEF on July 23, 1993;



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b) Programme of Cooperation signed by the Government of Albania and the UN on 24 October 2016, for the period of 2017-2021.

c) UNICEF Albania Country Programme Document, approved by the UNICEF Executive Board in September 2016, for the period 2017-2021.

2.2 Upon conclusion of the Programmes specified in paragraph 2.1 b and c, the Parties shall continue their cooperation based on the subsequent Programmes of Cooperation for the year 2021 and beyond, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

### ARTICLE 3

#### Scope and Field of activity

3.1 The scope of the Memorandum is to technically support the Parliament, its standing and ad hoc commissions and sub-commissions, including the group of Parliament members “Friends of Children” in advancing a human rights of the child agenda, in particular by fulfilling the obligations stemming from the Parliamentary Resolution adopted in November 2013 on the Protection of Child Rights, as well as the exchange of letters in 2015 between UNICEF, on the one hand, and the Ad-Hoc Parliamentary Commission on the Justice System Reform, as well as the Parliamentary Commission of Laws, Public Administration and Human Rights, on the other.



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- 3.2 On the basis of this Memorandum, UNICEF and the parliamentary commissions, sub-commissions, the group of parliamentarians “Friends of Children” and other groups that focus on children’s issues may develop Action Plans with clear duties, accountabilities and timelines and shall agree on the activities for which implementation, UNICEF will provide technical assistance.
- 3.3 UNICEF and the parliamentary commissions, sub-commissions, the group of parliamentarians “Friends of Children” and other groups that focus on children’s issues may renew these Action Plans depending on the progress achieved and new challenges that might arise along the cooperation between the Parties.
- 3.4 The field of activity of the Memorandum shall be the implementation of the above mentioned Resolution, the respective Action Plans and/or exchange of letters between UNICEF and parliamentary groups and commissions.

#### ARTICLE 4

##### Obligations of the Parties

- 4.1 In line with Article 1, the Parliament through its various commissions, sub-commissions and/or groups of parliamentarians shall:

