

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**between the**  
**Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services**  
**Commission (TCIFSC)**  
**and the**  
**Financial Services Commission of Barbados (FSCB)**  
**on the Exchange of Information**  
**for Co-operation, Consultation and Enforcement**

June 2013

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**WHEREAS:**

The **Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission**, a body corporate established by the Financial Services Ordinance 2001 and continued under the Financial Services Commission Ordinance 2007 of the Turks and Caicos Islands (hereinafter "TCIFSC") with responsibility for supervision and regulation of Financial Service business in the Turks and Caicos Islands pursuant to Section 4 of the Financial Services Commission Ordinance 2007 and the **Financial Services Commission**, a body corporate established under the Financial Services Commission Act 2010-21 of the Laws of Barbados with responsibility for supervision and regulation of the non-banking Financial Services sector in Barbados (hereinafter "FSCB") together hereinafter referred to as "**the Authorities**" recognise the need for mutual cooperation between the Authorities in the carrying out of their regulatory and supervisory functions under the relevant laws, regulations and rules in their respective countries.

**AND WHEREAS:**

The Authorities further acknowledge the importance of compliance with relevant international standards established by international standard setting bodies such as the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), the International Organization of Pension Supervisors (IOPS) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

**NOW THEREFORE:**

The arrangements outlined below are intended to enhance the existing working relationship between the Authorities.

**1. DEFINITIONS**

"**Requesting Authority**" means either one of the Authorities making a request pursuant to paragraph 5 this Memorandum of Understanding.

"**Requested Authority**" means the Authority to whom a request is made pursuant to paragraph 5 of this Memorandum of Understanding;

"**Person**" means a natural person, body corporate, partnership, or unincorporated association, government or political subdivision, agency or instrumentality of a government;

**"Financial Institutions"** mean the institutions and persons regulated and supervised by either of the Authorities, and

**"Jurisdiction"** means the country, state or other territory, as the case may be, in which either of the Authorities has legal authority, power and/or jurisdiction by law.

**"Memorandum of Understanding"** means the arrangements for both mutual co-operation and exchange of information between regulatory bodies.

**"Registered Person"** means any person carrying on financial business activities requiring registration or licensing by either of the Authorities in order to carry out those functions, who may or may not be subject to individual registration or licensing but who is subject to the operative legislation within the jurisdiction.

## 2. INTENTION

- 2.1 This Memorandum of Understanding sets forth a statement of intent of the Authorities to establish a framework for mutual assistance and to facilitate the exchange of information between the Authorities to **enforce or secure compliance with any laws, regulations or rules relating to the functions and duties of the Authorities** in their respective jurisdictions.
- 2.2 The Authorities intend to provide one another with assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding to the full extent permitted by the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions.
- 2.3 This Memorandum of Understanding will serve to promote the integrity, efficiency and financial soundness of financial institutions by improving the effective regulation, enhancing the supervision of cross-border transactions, and preventing fraudulent and other prohibited practices in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Barbados.
- 2.4 This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any binding legal obligations upon the Authorities.
- 2.5 The Authorities intend, where legal authorisation is lacking, to actively pursue all avenues towards obtaining, by law, all the necessary powers for the effective achievement of the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding, and to keep each other informed of developments in connection therewith.
- 2.6 The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding do not lead to the right of any person, directly or indirectly, to obtain, suppress or exclude any information or to challenge the execution of a request for assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding

- 2.7 The Authorities will use reasonable effort to provide each other, as permitted by the laws of their respective jurisdictions, with any information that they discover which leads to a suspicion of a breach or anticipated breach of rules or laws in the jurisdictions of the Authorities.

### **3. SCOPE**

- 3.1 Through the machinery set up by this Memorandum of Understanding, the Authorities agree to promote mutual assistance and exchange of information to enable the Authorities to perform their respective duties and functions effectively according to the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions.

- 3.2 In terms of this general theme, the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding includes the following:

- (a) Assisting in the discovery of and taking of action against unlawful activities and practices contrary to international standards subscribed to by the Authorities in relation to activities they regulate;
- (b) Enforcement of the laws, regulations and rules relating to financial institutions and financial services subject to regulation by the Authorities in their respective jurisdictions;
- (c) Regulation and supervision of financial institutions, collective investment schemes and clearing and settlement activities;
- (d) Promoting and securing the fit and proper qualities of registered persons and the promotion of high standards of fair dealing and integrity of their conduct of business;
- (e) Assisting in the carrying out of responsibilities for the prevention of and enquiries relating to money laundering under the laws of their respective jurisdictions including the proper implementation of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing procedures by financial institutions; and
- (f) Any matters agreed upon between the Authorities from time to time.

### **4. UNDERTAKING OF INSPECTION VISITS**

- 4.1 Inspection visits will take place in accordance with the laws of the requested jurisdiction.
- 4.2 The Requested Authority will undertake to carry out all inspection visits requested by the Requesting Authority as is reasonably practicable.

- 4.3 The Requesting Authority may seek permission from the Requested Authority to be part of the inspection. In requesting permission to be part of the inspection the Requesting Authority shall provide:
- 4.3.1 Written explanation of the specific purpose of the requested inspection and the aspects of the operations of the licensee to be inspected;
  - 4.3.2 The Requested Authority with the names, and positions of those person who the Requesting Authority would like to be included on the inspection team;
  - 4.3.3 Upon receiving the request for permission to be included on the inspection visit the Requested Authority will determine whether or not it will accept the request for permission to be included on the inspection; and
  - 4.3.4 Where the Requested Authority decides that permission shall not be granted to the Requesting Authority to be part of the inspection the Requested Authority shall in writing indicate same and give reasons for its decision.
- 4.4 During the course of any inspection the Requesting Authority shall not be entitled to have access to the name and/or title and/or other information of any account or accounts of a depositor or of any Trust or Trusts held by the financial institution being inspected unless the Requesting Authority can satisfy the Requested Authority that the voluntary consent of such account holder or settlor or trustee, as the case may be, has been obtained and a copy of such written consent has been provided to the Requested Authority. Any information gathered in the inspection shall only be used for the purposes as specified in the request pursuant to 4.3 above.
- 4.5 The Requested Authority shall at a reasonable time but no longer than (3) months from the end of the inspection unless otherwise mutually agreed produce and submit to the Requesting Authority a final Report on the inspection.
- 4.6 All members of the inspection team will be required to give an undertaking of confidentiality pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **5. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION**

- 5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding does not affect the ability of the Authorities to obtain information from persons on a voluntary basis, provided that the existing Authorities observe procedures in the jurisdiction of each Authority for the obtaining of such information.
- 5.2 To facilitate communication and ensure continuity in the co-operation between the Authorities, each Authority designates the contact persons set forth in

Appendix 1 hereto for communications under this Memorandum of Understanding. Where there is any change in the designated contact persons, the relevant Authority should/shall communicate this change in writing to the other party within ten (10) business days of the designation of the replacement contact person/ as soon as is reasonably practicable.

5.3 A Requesting Authority will make requests for assistance in writing addressed to the contact officer of the Requested Authority.

5.4 The request will include -

- (a) a description of both the subject matter of the request and the purpose for which the Requesting Authority seeks the assistance or information;
- (b) a description of the assistance, documents or information sought by the Requesting Authority;
- (c) any information in the possession of the Requesting Authority that might assist the Requested Authority in identifying the persons, bodies or entities believed by the Requesting Authority to possess the information sought, or the places where the Requested Authority may obtain such information;
- (d) the legal provisions concerning the matter that is the subject of the request and the relevance of the requested information to the specified laws or regulatory requirements;
- (e) whether any other authorities, governmental or non-governmental, are co-operating with the Requesting Authority or seeking information from the confidential files of the Requesting Authority and to whom onward disclosure of information is likely to be necessary; and the desired period of time for the reply;
- (f) In urgent circumstances, the Requested Authority will accept a request for assistance and will expedite to the extent possible a reply thereto by summary procedures or by means of communication other than the exchange of letters. Such urgent communications must be confirmed in writing as prescribed above by the contact person set out in Appendix A within five business days.

## 6. EXECUTION OF REQUESTS

6.1 Where the Requested Authority is satisfied in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding and the laws governing the Requesting Authority that the assistance should be given, the Requested Authority will within a reasonable time;



- (a) such agencies or bodies have responsibility for prosecuting, regulating or enforcing rules or laws falling within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding; or
- (b) the purpose of passing on such information to such an agency or body falls within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding, and
- (c) an undertaking has been obtained from the recipient by the Requested Authority that it will maintain the confidentiality of the information.

9.5 The Authorities confidential treatment of assistance and information will continue when either Authority gives notice of its intent to cease co-operation under this Memorandum of Understanding. The Authorities understand that the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions place limitations on use and disclosure of non-public information obtained pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **10. RIGHTS OF REQUESTED AUTHORITY**

10.1 The Requested Authority may deny requests for assistance under the Memorandum of Understanding -

- (a) where the request would require the Requested Authority to act in a way that would violate the laws of the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority;
- (b) where the request is not in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- (c) where corresponding assistance would not be given in the country or territory of the Requesting Authority;
- (d) where the request involves a breach of law or other requirement which has no close parallel in the country or territory of the Requested Authority or involves the assertion of a jurisdiction not recognised in the country or territory of the Requested Authority; or
- (e) on the grounds of public interest.

10.2 Where the Requested Authority denies a request for assistance, or where assistance is not available under the law of the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority, the Requested Authority will provide the reasons why it is not granting the assistance. The Authorities will then consult pursuant to Clause 11.

10.3 The Authorities recognise that they intend nothing in the Memorandum of Understanding to either limit or enhance the powers of the Authorities under the laws of their respective jurisdictions to investigate or gather information

or to take measures otherwise than as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding to obtain information, whether or not concerning a request under the Memorandum of Understanding.

## 11. CONSULTATION

11.1 The Authorities will consult with each other to improve the operation of the Memorandum of Understanding and to resolve any matters that may arise including but not limited to -

- (a) matters of mutual interest to enhance co-operation and to protect investors by ensuring the stability, efficiency, and integrity of the financial services industry in their respective jurisdictions,
- (b) the co-ordination of the supervision of financial institutions; and
- (c) the administration of the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions.

The purpose of such consultations is to assist in the development of mutually agreeable approaches for strengthening the financial services industries of their respective jurisdictions whilst avoiding, whenever possible, conflicts that may arise from the application of differing regulatory practices.

11.2 The Authorities will consider the need for additional measures for the exchange of investigation, enforcement, supervisory and surveillance information in the administration and enforcement of the laws, regulations and rules concerning financial institutions in their respective jurisdictions, on an ongoing basis. To this end, the Authorities will inform one another of the adoption of domestic measures that may affect their respective authority to provide assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding.

11.3 The Authorities may take practical measures as may be necessary to facilitate the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. As such, the Authorities may amend, relax or waive any of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

## 12. COSTS OF INVESTIGATION

If it appears that the Requested Authority will incur substantial costs in responding to a request for assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding, the Requested Authority may, as a condition to executing the requests, require the Requesting Authority to contribute to its cost in an amount agreed upon by the Authorities.

**13. TERMINATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

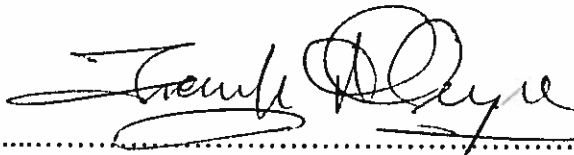
This Memorandum of Understanding will continue in effect until the expiration of 30 days after either Authority gives written notice to the other Authority of its intention to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding. If either Authority gives such notice, this Memorandum of Understanding will continue to have effect with respect to all requests for assistance that the Authorities made before the effective date of notification until the Requesting Authority terminates the matter for which it requested assistance.

**14. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Memorandum of Understanding will be effective from the date of its signing by the Authorities.

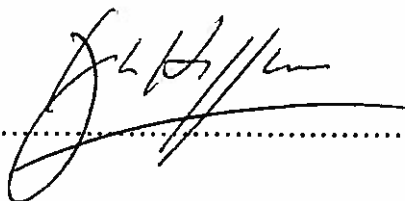
SIGNED at this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2013

***FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
THE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION of BARBADOS***



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***FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION***



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**DESIGNATED CONTACT OFFICERS**

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission  
P.O.Box 173, Harry E. Francis Bldg.,  
Pond Street, Grand Turk,  
Turks & Caicos Islands  
Tel: 649 946 2791  
Fax: 649 946 2821  
Email: [FSC@TCIWAY.TC](mailto:FSC@TCIWAY.TC)

Or

Caribbean Place, Leeward Highway  
Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands  
Tel: 649 946 5314  
Fax: 649 941 3569

**All Requests to**  
Mr. J. Kevin Higgins – Managing Director  
[khiggins@tcifsc.tc](mailto:khiggins@tcifsc.tc)

Also copy  
**For Supervision purposes**  
Mr. Derek St. Rose – Head of Insurance  
[dstrose@tcifsc.tc](mailto:dstrose@tcifsc.tc)

**For enforcement purposes**  
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**All Requests to**  
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**For Supervision purposes**  
Mrs. Cyralene Benskin-Murray – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Ag)  
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