MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND DIGITAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF INNOVATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAHAMAS

The Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Innovation and National Development of The Bahamas (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Participants" and separately as a "Participant");

Whereas the Participants desire to deepen and expand bilateral cooperation in the field of digital transformation;

Considering the benefits that arise from international cooperation to enhance the digital development and innovation of both countries;

Recognizing the progress and commitments by both Participants in digital development, especially with regard to the advancement of e-governance platforms and services;

Building on the recent exchanges and existing relations in the digital field between public authorities, private companies and technology communities of both countries;

Have reached the following understanding:

SECTION 1
Objectives

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU") is intended to establish a comprehensive framework for collaboration between the Participants within the domain of digital governance and innovation.

SECTION 2
Areas of Cooperation

The Participants will encourage, facilitate and engage in cooperation in the following areas:

1. The exchange of knowledge, best practices and expertise on digital government development, data governance and interoperability, digital identity, artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, cybersecurity and other fields of digitalization;
2. The sharing of experiences in the development of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity and governance models that support secure, transparent and citizen-centric digital transformation;
3. Collaboration on the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of digital government initiatives, including through the exchange of technical expertise;
4. Exploring the arrangement of joint workshops, study visits, expert exchanges or other initiatives to promote knowledge sharing and strengthen cooperation between the Participants; and
5. Facilitation of partnerships between public institutions, technology companies and other relevant stakeholders in support of digital innovation, knowledge exchange and the development and adoption of digital solutions in both countries.

SECTION 3
Implementation

1. The Participants designate the following institutions as their coordinating representatives responsible for the arrangement of collaboration and implementation of this MoU:

   Estonia: The Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications (ITL)

   The Bahamas: Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Ministry of Innovation and National Development

2. The Participants may invite other institutions, including institutions from the private and non-governmental sectors or other levels of government, to participate in the work and may assign them responsibility for the implementation of particular activities carried out under this MoU.

3. In order to implement any collaborative activity of common interest in the areas and forms referred to in Section 2 above, the Participants may negotiate and accept implementing arrangements in accordance with their respective laws, regulations and internal procedures.

4. The Participants will decide, on a case-by-case basis, how their joint activities will be funded and resourced.

SECTION 4
Legal Status

1. This MoU is a non-binding arrangement and does not create any rights or obligations for the Participants under international law, treaties or agreements.

2. All cooperative activities under this MoU will be conducted in accordance with the applicable national laws, regulations, rules and policies of each Participant.

3. Each Participant will be responsible for its own costs arising from the implementation of this MoU, subject to the availability of resources.

SECTION 5
Confidentiality

1. Each Participant shall treat as confidential any technical data and information related to activities conducted under this MoU which has been or may subsequently be made available to it, directly or indirectly, by the other Participant, including information made available in writing, orally or in any other form embodying technical or commercial information.

2. Where either Participant wishes to disclose confidential data or information supplied for, or resulting from, the implementation of this MoU, that Participant shall obtain the prior written consent of the other Participant.

SECTION 6
Protection of Intellectual Property

1. The Participants will take the requisite measures to safeguard intellectual property rights arising from any activity covered by this MoU. Such measures will be in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and international conventions to which either or both Participants are parties.

2. Neither Participant shall use jointly developed intellectual property resulting from activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU without the prior written approval of the other Participant.

SECTION 7
Settlement of Disputes

Any difference or dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably through consultations or negotiations between the Participants.

SECTION 8
Entry into Effect, Duration and Termination

1. This MoU will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. It will thereafter be automatically extended for successive periods of five (5) years unless either Participant gives written notice, through diplomatic channels, of its intention not to renew the MoU at least ninety (90) days before the expiration of the applicable term.
2. Either Participant may terminate this MoU at any time, for convenience, by giving the other Participant at least ninety (90) days' prior written notice through diplomatic channels.
3. This MoU may be reviewed and amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants. Any amendment shall be signed by the Participants, will come into effect on such date as may be determined by the Participants, and will form an integral part of this MoU.
4. In the event of termination or non-renewal of this MoU, its provisions will remain applicable to ongoing programmes or activities that have not been concluded, unless otherwise agreed by the Participants.

Signed in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on the 10th day of August 2026, in two original copies in the English language, each copy being equally authentic.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND DIGITAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

Liisa-Ly Pakosta

Minister of Justice and Digital Affairs

Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs
Republic of Estonia

FOR THE MINISTRY OF INNOVATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAHAMAS

Sebastian Bastian

Minister

Ministry of Innovation and National Development
The Bahamas