

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
CONCERNING THE IMPOSITION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS  
ON CATEGORIES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL  
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

Acting pursuant to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States party; and

Desiring to reduce the incentive for pillage of irreplaceable archaeological material representing Egypt's rich cultural heritage;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. The Government of the United States of America shall, in accordance with its legislation entitled the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, restrict the importation into the United States of

archaeological material ranging in date from the Pre-dynastic Period through 1517 A.D., including categories of stone, metal, ceramic, wood, faience and glass, ivory, bone, shell, plaster and cartonnage, textile, basketry, rope, leather, parchment, papyrus, painting, drawing, and mosaics identified in the list to be promulgated by the Government of the United States (hereinafter referred to as the Designated List), unless the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt issues a license which certifies that such exportation was not in violation of its laws.

2. In light of information to be provided by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America shall periodically review the historical timeframe covered by this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
3. The Government of the United States of America shall offer for return to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt any material on the Designated List forfeited to the Government of the United States of America.
4. Such import restrictions shall become effective on the date the Designated List is published by the Department of Homeland Security in the U.S. Federal Register, the official United States Government publication providing fair public notice.
5. This MoU shall not be retroactive.

## ARTICLE II

### Public Awareness /Outreach

1. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Government of the United States of America shall publicize this MoU and its purposes through appropriate means.
2. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall continue activating and expanding its educational and outreach initiatives into schools and museums as this initiative supports the importance of protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of Egypt, and the Government of the United States shall work to raise awareness among its nationals – and in particular tourists visiting Egypt – with regard to the dangers of the illicit trade in cultural property.
3. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall endeavor to build fruitful relationships with Egyptian civil society groups concerned with protecting and preserving Egypt's cultural heritage as represented in the Designated List.

### Protection/ Conservation

4. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall use its best efforts to:
  - (a) Preserve its ancient heritage as stipulated in the Constitution and national laws of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- (b) Inventory collections in museums, storerooms, and historic sites, in accordance with priorities and working methods it shall determine and consistent with established international professional standards.
- (c) Further develop a Geographic Information System (GIS), consistent with established international professional standards and practices, as an aid to monitoring sites.
5. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall strengthen mechanisms to promote best practices in cultural resource management in Egypt, and shall encourage coordination among cultural heritage authorities, tourism authorities, religious authorities, and development agencies to ensure the enforcement of laws that protect heritage sites from encroachment, unsanctioned appropriation, looting, and damage.

Collaboration/ Interchange

6. The Government of the United States of America shall use its best efforts to facilitate technical assistance in cultural resource management and security to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, under available programs, particularly in the public and/or private sectors. Such assistance shall be directed at areas to be jointly decided by both governments.
7. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall expand, particularly in duration, the exchange of its archaeological material through special exhibitions and other loans for cultural, educational, and

scientific purposes, provided that it does not jeopardize its cultural patrimony and is fully consistent with applicable rules and regulations as determined by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities.

8. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall collaborate as appropriate with established foreign archaeological research missions in Egypt and with museums and other cultural institutions to increase the preservation and security of cultural objects and archaeological sites under study.

#### Law Enforcement

9. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall take steps to further professionalize its heritage site personnel through training, provision of equipment, and adequate compensation.
10. With regard to cultural heritage sites, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall use its best efforts to increase law enforcement and to document, track, and publicize incidents of looting and theft where appropriate. Such records should include the eventual outcome of cases that result in seizures, prosecution, and penalties as a means of monitoring the effectiveness of this MoU. As appropriate, the governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America shall exchange relevant information through diplomatic channels.

11. In order to reduce the illicit trafficking of Egyptian archaeological material covered by this MoU, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall endeavor to enhance its collaborative efforts with the governments of neighboring countries and those countries having a demonstrable market for such material.

Reporting

12. The Government of the United States of America shall inform the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt through diplomatic channels of all forfeited Egyptian artifacts upon the completion of forfeiture proceedings.

13. Each government shall, on a regular basis, keep the other informed of the implementation of the measures agreed to in this MoU.

ARTICLE III

The obligations of both governments and the activities carried out under this MoU shall be subject to the laws and regulations of each government, as applicable in either country, including the availability of appropriated funds.

ARTICLE IV

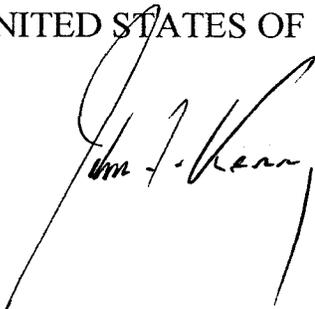
1. This MoU shall enter into force upon signature; it shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years, unless extended.

2. This MoU may be amended through an exchange of diplomatic notes.
3. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Government of the United States of America shall review the effectiveness of this MoU before the expiration of the five (5)-year period in order to determine whether the MoU should be extended.
4. Either Party may notify the other, in writing through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate this MoU prior to its date of expiry. In such a case the termination shall come into effect six (6) months after receipt of notification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed the present MoU.

DONE at Washington, this 30th day of November, 2016, in duplicate, in the Arabic and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE  
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

