

U.S. Department of Justice  
 Washington, DC 20530

**Exhibit A to Registration Statement  
 Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of  
 1938, as amended**

INSTRUCTIONS. Furnish this exhibit for EACH foreign principal listed in an initial statement and for EACH additional foreign principal acquired subsequently. The filing of this document requires the payment of a filing fee as set forth in Rule (d)(1), 28 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1). Compliance is accomplished by filing an electronic Exhibit A form at <https://www.fara.gov>.

Privacy Act Statement. The filing of this document is required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, for the purposes of registration under the Act and public disclosure. Provision of the information requested is mandatory, and failure to provide this information is subject to the penalty and enforcement provisions established in Section 8 of the Act. Every registration statement, short form registration statement, supplemental statement, exhibit, amendment, copy of informational materials or other document or information filed with the Attorney General under this Act is a public record open to public examination, inspection and copying during the posted business hours of the FARA Unit in Washington, DC. Statements are also available online at the FARA Unit's webpage: <https://www.fara.gov>. One copy of every such document, other than informational materials, is automatically provided to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, and copies of any and all documents are routinely made available to other agencies, departments and Congress pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act. The Attorney General also transmits a semi-annual report to Congress on the administration of the Act which lists the names of all agents registered under the Act and the foreign principals they represent. This report is available to the public online at: <https://www.fara.gov>.

Public Reporting Burden. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .22 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, FARA Unit, Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Name of Registrant Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C.	2. Registration Number 7130
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3. Primary Address of Registrant  
 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 700, Washington, D.C., DC 20016

4. Name of Foreign Principal Mr. Ali Hojaij	5. Address of Foreign Principal MEAB Bank Building, Adnan Al Hakim Avenue P.O. Box 14-5958 Beirut, Lebanon LEBANON 110522080
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6. Country/Region Represented  
 LEBANON

7. Indicate whether the foreign principal is one of the following:

- Government of a foreign country<sup>1</sup>
- Foreign political party
- Foreign or domestic organization: If either, check one of the following:
  - Partnership
  - Corporation
  - Association
  - Committee
  - Voluntary group
  - Other (*specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
- Individual-State nationality CANADA

8. If the foreign principal is a foreign government, state:

- a) Branch or agency represented by the registrant
- b) Name and title of official(s) with whom registrant engages

<sup>1</sup> "Government of a foreign country," as defined in Section 1(e) of the Act, includes any person or group of persons exercising sovereign de facto or de jure political jurisdiction over any country, other than the United States, or over any part of such country, and includes any subdivision of any such group and any group or agency to which such sovereign de facto or de jure authority or functions are directly or indirectly delegated. Such term shall include any faction or body of insurgents within a country assuming to exercise governmental authority whether such faction or body of insurgents has or has not been recognized by the United States.

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9. If the foreign principal is a foreign political party, state:

a) Name and title of official(s) with whom registrant engages

b) Aim, mission or objective of foreign political party

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10. If the foreign principal is not a foreign government or a foreign political party:

a) State the nature of the business or activity of this foreign principal.

Banking

b) Is this foreign principal:

Supervised by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal

Yes  No

Owned by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal

Yes  No

Directed by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal

Yes  No

Controlled by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal

Yes  No

Financed by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal

Yes  No

Subsidized in part by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal

Yes  No

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11. Explain fully all items answered "Yes" in Item 10(b).

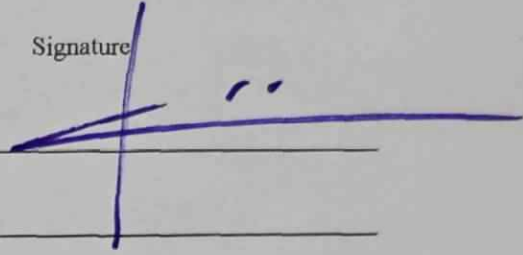
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12. If the foreign principal is an organization and is not owned or controlled by a foreign government, foreign political party or other foreign principal, state who owns and controls it.

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**EXECUTION**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 22 U.S.C. § 618, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this statement filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date	Printed Name	Signature
01/29/26	KEVIN AGT DICKER-VONNATION	
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

U.S. Department of Justice  
 Washington, DC 20530

**Exhibit B to Registration Statement  
 Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of  
 1938, as amended**

**INSTRUCTIONS.** A registrant must furnish as an Exhibit B copies of each written agreement and the terms and conditions of each oral agreement with his foreign principal, including all modifications of such agreements, or, where no contract exists, a full statement of all the circumstances by reason of which the registrant is acting as an agent of a foreign principal. Compliance is accomplished by filing an electronic Exhibit B form at <https://www.fara.gov>.

**Privacy Act Statement.** The filing of this document is required for the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, for the purposes of registration under the Act and public disclosure. Provision of the information requested is mandatory, and failure to provide the information is subject to the penalty and enforcement provisions established in Section 8 of the Act. Every registration statement, short form registration statement, supplemental statement, exhibit, amendment, copy of informational materials or other document or information filed with the Attorney General under this Act is a public record open to public examination, inspection and copying during the posted business hours of the FARA Unit in Washington, DC. Statements are also available online at the FARA Unit's webpage: <https://www.fara.gov>. One copy of every such document, other than informational materials, is automatically provided to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, and copies of any and all documents are routinely made available to other agencies, departments and Congress pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act. The Attorney General also transmits a semi-annual report to Congress on the administration of the Act which lists the names of all agents registered under the Act and the foreign principals they represent. This report is available to the public online at: <https://www.fara.gov>.

**Public Reporting Burden.** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .32 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, FARA Unit, Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Name of Registrant Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C.	2. Registration Number 7130
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3. Name of Foreign Principal Mr. Ali Hojaij
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Check Appropriate Box:

4.  The agreement between the registrant and the above-named foreign principal is a formal written contract. If this box is checked, attach a copy of the contract to this exhibit.
5.  There is no formal written contract between the registrant and the foreign principal. The agreement with the above-named foreign principal has resulted from an exchange of correspondence. If this box is checked, attach a copy of all pertinent correspondence, including a copy of any initial proposal which has been adopted by reference in such correspondence.
6.  The agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal is the result of neither a formal written contract nor an exchange of correspondence between the parties. If this box is checked, give a complete description below of the terms and conditions of the oral agreement or understanding, its duration, and the fees and expenses, if any, to be received.
7. What is the date of the contract or agreement with the foreign principal? 08/30/2025
8. Describe fully the nature and method of performance of the above indicated agreement or understanding.

VBMV shall provide comprehensive government affairs, public relations, and litigation support services in the United States to protect and enhance the Client's reputation, safeguard MEAB's international operations, and position.

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9. Describe fully the activities the registrant engages in or proposes to engage in on behalf of the above foreign principal.

See Appendix for Response

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10. Will the activities on behalf of the above foreign principal include political activities as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act.<sup>1</sup>

Yes  No

If yes, describe all such political activities indicating, among other things, the relations, interests or policies to be influenced together with the means to be employed to achieve this purpose. The response must include, but not be limited to, activities involving lobbying, promotion, perception management, public relations, economic development, and preparation and dissemination of informational materials.

See Appendix for Response

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11. Prior to the date of registration<sup>2</sup> for this foreign principal has the registrant engaged in any registrable activities, including political activities, for this foreign principal?

Yes  No

If yes, describe in full detail all such activities. The response should include, among other things, the relations, interests, and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored, or delivered speeches, lectures, social media, internet postings, or media broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers, and subject matter. The response must also include, but not be limited to, activities involving lobbying, promotion, perception management, public relations, economic development, and preparation and dissemination of informational materials.

Set forth below a general description of the registrant's activities, including political activities.

Set forth below in the required detail the registrant's political activities.

Date	Contact	Method	Purpose
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12. During the period beginning 60 days prior to the obligation to register<sup>3</sup> to the date of registration for this foreign principal, has the registrant received from the foreign principal, or from any other source, for or in the interests of the foreign principal, any contributions, income, money, or thing of value either as compensation, or for disbursement, or otherwise?

Yes  No

If yes, set forth below in the required detail an account of such monies or things of value.

Date Received	From Whom	Purpose	Amount/Thing of Value
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13. During the period beginning 60 days prior to the obligation to register<sup>4</sup> to the date of registration for this foreign principal, has the registrant disbursed or expended monies, or disposed of anything of value other than money, in connection with activity on behalf of the foreign principal or transmitted monies to any such foreign principal?

Yes  No

If yes, set forth below in the required detail an account of such monies or things of value.

Date	Recipient	Purpose	Amount/Thing of Value
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<sup>1</sup> "Political activity," as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act, means any activity which the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting, or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

<sup>2,3,4</sup> Pursuant to Section 2(a) of the Act, an agent must register within ten days of becoming an agent, and before acting as such.

**EXECUTION**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 22 U.S.C. § 618, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this statement filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date	Printed Name	Signature
01/29/26	KEVIN AGT DICKER DONNATION	

## **Appendix Response to Item 9**

**Item 9: Describe fully the activities the registrant engages in or proposes to engage in on behalf of the above foreign principal.**

Government affairs and lobbying before the U.S. Congress and the Treasury.

- Litigation advocacy in coordination with legal counsel.
- Public relations and media strategy.
- Think tank and NGO engagement.
- Political and diplomatic positioning.
- International reputation management

## **Appendix Response to Item 10**

**Item 10: Will the activities on behalf of the above foreign principal include political activities as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act. If yes, describe all such political activities indicating, among other things, the relations, interests or policies to be influenced together with the means to be employed to achieve this purpose. The response must include, but not be limited to, activities involving lobbying, promotion, perception management, public relations, economic development, and preparation and dissemination of informational materials.**

The registrant will provide advisory services and lobbying on behalf of the foreign principal in order to influence the relations, interests, and policies of the United States Government. Such activities will include advising and lobbying members of Congress, congressional committees, and staff, as well as officials within the U.S. Department of the Treasury and other executive branch agencies, concerning the foreign principal's compliance with international banking standards, financial transparency, and alignment with U.S. counter-terrorism financing objectives. The registrant will also engage in public relations and perception management, including the preparation and dissemination of informational materials such as briefing memoranda, policy white papers, press statements, and op-eds; provide strategic guidance regarding media positioning and outreach; and advise on promotional and economic development initiatives designed to highlight the foreign principal's role in regional financial stability and constructive U.S.-Lebanon economic relations. These activities are intended to influence U.S. government decision-making, legislative and regulatory policy, and broader public opinion in the United States.

## ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Between

Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C. (“VBM”)

and

Mr. Ali Hojaij, Chairman, Middle East and Africa Bank (MEAB) (“Client”)

Effective Date: 8/30/2025

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### 1. PARTIES

This Engagement Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between:

- 1.1 Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C., a limited liability company organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, with its principal office in Washington, D.C. (“VBM”) or “Firm”); and
- 1.2 Mr. Ali Hojaij, Chairman of Middle East and Africa Bank (MEAB), acting on behalf of himself and MEAB (together, the “Client”).

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### 2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 2.1 VBM shall provide comprehensive government affairs, public relations, and litigation support services in the United States to protect and enhance the Client’s reputation, safeguard MEAB’s international operations, and position Mr. Hojaij as a credible, pro-Western financial leader.
- 2.2 The services shall include, but are not limited to:
  - Government affairs and lobbying before the U.S. Congress and the Treasury.
  - Litigation advocacy in coordination with legal counsel.
  - Public relations and media strategy.
  - Think tank and NGO engagement.
  - Political and diplomatic positioning.
  - International reputation management.
- 2.3 The strategic objectives, deliverables, and phased implementation schedule are incorporated herein by reference as set forth in the attached Appendix A (Proposal).

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### 3. TERM

- 3.1 The Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and continue for twelve (12) months, unless terminated earlier pursuant to Section 12 (Termination).

3.2 Extensions may be mutually agreed upon in writing.

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#### **4. PROFESSIONAL FEES AND PAYMENT TERMS**

4.1 Contract Value: The total fee for services under this Agreement shall be Six Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand U.S. Dollars (USD \$648,000).

4.2 Installment Schedule:

- Initial Retainer (30%): USD \$194,400, due immediately upon execution of this Agreement.
- Second Installment (40%): USD \$259,200, due ninety (90) days after Effective Date.
- Final Installment (30%): USD \$194,400, due one hundred eighty (180) days after the Effective Date.

4.3 Additional Terms:

- All payments shall be made in U.S. Dollars via wire transfer to VBMV's designated U.S. financial institution.
  - All installments, once paid, shall be deemed earned and non-refundable.
  - Extraordinary expenses (e.g., event hosting, media placement, litigation experts) require prior written approval by the Client and shall be invoiced separately.
  - Payments not received within fifteen (15) days of the due date shall accrue interest at ten percent (10%) per annum.
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#### **5. EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES**

5.1 Extraordinary media or event-related expenses shall be validated through itemized invoices consistent with GAAP standards and lobbying disclosure rules under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.).

5.2 Client approval in writing is required prior to incurring such expenses.

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#### **6. CLIENT OBLIGATIONS**

6.1 The Client agrees to:

1. Fund the engagement per Section 4.
  2. Provide timely approvals for extraordinary expenses and media content.
  3. Cooperate in good faith, providing necessary information and participation to enable effective advocacy.
  4. Refrain from boarding flights to the U.S. until cleared in writing by VBMV, consistent with entry restrictions under 8 U.S.C. § 1182.
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## **7. MEDIA CONTENT APPROVAL**

- 7.1 All media materials (press releases, op-eds, public statements) shall require prior written approval by the Client.
  - 7.2 VBMV shall recommend language and strategy based on its professional expertise; however, the Client retains final authority.
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## **8. LITIGATION COORDINATION**

- 8.1 VBMV shall coordinate advocacy efforts with litigation counsel, including Squire Patton Boggs, only at strategic stages as directed by the Client.
  - 8.2 Should litigation experts be required, they shall be separately contracted and billed.
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## **9. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 9.1 The Parties shall execute and abide by the Non-Disclosure Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit B (NDA), which is hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference.
  - 9.2 Violations shall entitle the non-breaching party to equitable remedies, including injunctive relief and damages, under District of Columbia law.
- 

## **10. PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS**

- 10.1 VBMV assesses the probability of achieving the Client's objectives at approximately ninety-eight percent (98%), contingent upon full client cooperation and adherence to VBMV's strategic instructions.
  - 10.2 Client acknowledges that lobbying and government affairs are inherently dynamic and influenced by external political and legal factors.
- 

## **11. COMPLIANCE AND REGISTRATION**

- 11.1 VBMV shall comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act (22 U.S.C. § 611 et seq.) and the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.).
  - 11.2 VBMV shall register as necessary with the U.S. Department of Justice and/or Congress.
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**12. TERMINATION**

12.1 Either party may terminate this Agreement by providing not less than ten (10) calendar days' written notice.

12.2 Termination shall not prejudice obligations accrued prior to the effective termination date.

**13. GOVERNING LAW**

13.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the District of Columbia.

**14. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

14.1 The parties shall first attempt good-faith negotiation of any dispute.

14.2 If unresolved, disputes shall be submitted to binding arbitration in Washington, D.C. under the rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA).

**15. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

15.1 This Agreement, together with its Appendix A (Proposal) and executed NDA, constitutes the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior discussions, proposals, or agreements.

**SIGNATURES**

**Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Karl Von Batten  
Managing Partner

DocuSigned by:  
  
BBC58AA22052472...

Date: 8/30/2025

**Client – Mr. Ali Hojajj / MEAB**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ali Hojajj  
Chairman, Middle East and Africa Bank

Signé par :  
  
1A801DCB76E2407...

Date: 8/30/2025

**Appendix A** – Proposal of Services  
**Appendix B** – Non-Disclosure Agreement

## NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

Between

Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C. ("VBM")

and

Mr. Ali Hojaj, Chairman, Middle East and Africa Bank (MEAB) ("Client")

Effective Date: 8/30/2025

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### 1. PARTIES

This Non-Disclosure Agreement ("Agreement" or "NDA") is entered into by and between Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C., with principal offices in Washington, D.C. ("Disclosing Party" and/or "Receiving Party" as context requires), and Mr. Ali Hojaj, acting on behalf of himself and the Middle East and Africa Bank ("Client"), collectively the "Parties."

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### 2. PURPOSE

The Parties desire to exchange certain confidential, proprietary, and sensitive information in connection with a professional engagement for government affairs, litigation support, public relations, and strategic communications services (the "Engagement"). This NDA governs the disclosure and protection of such information.

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### 3. DEFINITION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

3.1 "Confidential Information" means all non-public, proprietary, or sensitive information disclosed by either Party, whether written, oral, digital, or in any other form, including but not limited to:

- Strategic plans, lobbying strategies, and government contacts.
- Political, legal, and regulatory analysis.
- Media strategies, drafts of op-eds, and public statements.
- Financial terms, billing records, and payment information.
- Identities of subcontractors, consultants, and advisors.
- Communications with policymakers, journalists, and think tanks.
- Any personal or professional data related to the Client.

3.2 Confidential Information does not include information which:

- (a) is or becomes publicly available without breach of this Agreement;
- (b) was lawfully in the possession of the Receiving Party before disclosure;
- (c) is rightfully received from a third party without a duty of confidentiality;
- (d) is independently developed by the Receiving Party without use of Confidential Information.

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#### **4. OBLIGATIONS**

4.1 Each Party shall:

- Use Confidential Information solely for purposes of the Engagement.
- Restrict disclosure to its officers, employees, advisors, or subcontractors who have a need to know and are bound by confidentiality obligations no less restrictive than those herein.
- Not disclose Confidential Information to any third party without prior written consent of the Disclosing Party.

4.2 The Parties shall exercise at least the same degree of care to protect Confidential Information as they use to protect their own information of like importance, but no less than reasonable care.

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#### **5. LEGAL AND REGULATORY DISCLOSURE**

If disclosure of Confidential Information is required by law, regulation, or court order, the Receiving Party shall provide prompt written notice to the Disclosing Party (unless prohibited by law) so that protective measures may be sought.

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#### **6. TERM**

This NDA shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years from the Effective Date, or three (3) years following the expiration or termination of the Engagement, whichever is longer.

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#### **7. REMEDIES**

7.1 The Parties acknowledge that monetary damage may be inadequate to remedy breach of this NDA. Accordingly, the non-breaching Party shall be entitled to injunctive relief, specific performance, and any other equitable remedies available under law.

7.2 Violations shall also give rise to claims for compensatory damages, consequential damages, and attorneys' fees under District of Columbia contract law.

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**8. RETURN OR DESTRUCTION**

Upon termination of the Engagement, the Receiving Party shall promptly return or destroy all Confidential Information, including all copies, summaries, or derivatives thereof, unless otherwise required by law or regulatory retention obligations.

**9. NO LICENSE OR WAIVER**

Nothing herein shall be construed to grant any license, ownership, or rights to the Receiving Party in Confidential Information. No waiver of any rights under this Agreement shall be effective unless made in writing.

**10. GOVERNING LAW**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the District of Columbia, without regard to conflict of law principles.

**11. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This NDA constitutes the entire understanding of the Parties with respect to confidentiality and supersedes all prior agreements or understandings, written or oral, relating to the subject matter herein.

**SIGNATURES**

**Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C.** DocuSigned by:  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Karl Von Batten  
Managing Partner  
Date: 8/30/2025



**Client – Mr. Ali Hojaij / MEAB** Signé par :  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ali Hojaij  
Chairman, Middle East and Africa Bank  
Date: 8/30/2025

