



AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

IN RESPECT OF CO-OPERATION

IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING CRIME

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties", and separately as a "Party";

Expressing concern about the rise in crime, especially in its organized forms;

Recognizing the importance of promotion and development of co-operation in the field of combating crime;

Taking into account the purposes and principles of international agreements to which they are parties, as well as resolutions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies on combating crime;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

**COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND OBLIGATION TO CO-
OPERATE**

- (1) The Competent Authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement shall be, on the Russian part, the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation, and, on the South African part, the Department for Safety and Security of the Republic of South Africa. (Hereinafter referred to as Competent Authorities).
- (2) The Competent Authorities shall co-operate in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, acting under their jurisdiction and subject to the international obligations and domestic law of the States of the Parties.

Article 2

AREAS OF CO-OPERATION

- (1) The Competent Authorities shall co-operate in the prevention, detection, suppression and investigation of crime, including, but not limited to -
 - (a) violent crimes against human life;

- (b) corruption and organised crime;
 - (c) illicit traffic of firearms, ammunition, explosives and poisonous substances, including radioactive materials;
 - (d) illicit production and traffic of narcotic and psychotropic substances, including those materials which are used in their production;
 - (e) economic crimes, including money-laundering; and
 - (f) production and sale of forged banknotes, securities and other documents relating to bank transfers.
- (2) The Competent Authorities shall also co-operate in the following areas:
- (a) Public order policing.
 - (b) Identification of unidentified corpses.
 - (c) Scientific and research activity, development of data systems, special technical means and equipment.
 - (d) Basic and advanced training of personnel.

Article 3

MANNER OF CO-OPERATION

- (1) For the purpose of realization of the provisions of Article 2 of this Agreement, the Competent Authorities shall co-operate in the following manner:
 - (a) Exchange of information of interest relating to crimes which are being planned or have been committed and in respect of persons and organizations involved in these crimes.
 - (b) Execution of requests as contemplated in Article 5.
 - (c) Search for persons who are evading criminal prosecution or execution of a sentence and also for persons who are reported missing.
 - (d) Exchange of information relating to new types of narcotic and psychotropic substances which emerged in illicit traffic, about technology relating to their production and the materials which were used, as well as new methods of examination and identification of narcotic and psychotropic substances.
 - (e) Search and return, subject to the domestic law of the respective States of the Parties, of items which have specific identification numbers or marks.

- (f) Exchange of working experience, including in-service training, consultations and seminars.
 - (g) Exchange of legislation.
 - (h) Exchange, on a mutually beneficial basis, of scientific and technical literature and data related to the functions of the Competent Authorities.
 - (i) Procurement of equipment as agreed upon.
- (2) This Agreement does not apply to extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Article 4

DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION

With due regard to the provisions of Article 2, this Agreement does not preclude the Competent Authorities from determining and developing other areas and forms of co-operation.

Article 5

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

- (1) Co-operation within the framework of this Agreement shall be rendered on the basis of requests from the interested Competent Authority for assistance or following the initiative of the Competent Authority which deems such assistance to be of interest to the other Competent Authority.
- (2) Requests for assistance shall be in writing: Provided that in cases of emergency, requests may be made orally, but shall be confirmed in writing within seven days.
- (3) Additional confirmation may be requested if any doubt as to the authenticity or to the contents of the request, exists.
- (4) Requests for assistance shall contain -
 - (a) the name of the agency of the Competent Authority which applies for assistance and the name of the agency of the Competent Authority to which application has been made for assistance;
 - (b) details of the case;
 - (c) the purpose of and grounds for the request;

- (d) a description of the assistance requested; and
 - (e) any other information which may assist the effective execution of the request.
- (5) Requests for assistance shall be signed by the head of the Competent Authority or its delegate.

Article 6

REFUSAL OF ASSISTANCE

- (1) Assistance within this Agreement may be refused completely or partially, if the requested Competent Authority considers the execution of the request to be detrimental to the sovereignty, security, public order or other essential interests of its State, or is in conflict with its domestic law or international obligations.
- (2) Assistance may be refused if the act in relation to which the request was forwarded is not punishable under the domestic law of the State of the requested Competent Authority.
- (3) Assistance may also be refused if execution of the request imposes an excessive burden on the resources of the requested Competent Authority.

- (4) Should it be possible, the requested Competent Authority shall, before taking a decision to refuse the assistance in accordance with sub-Articles (1) and (2), consult with the requesting Competent Authority in order to establish whether the assistance may be granted on the conditions which the requested Competent Authority may impose. The requesting Competent Authority shall comply with the conditions on which assistance is granted.
- (5) The requesting Competent Authority shall be notified in writing about full or partial refusal to execute the request with an explanation of the reasons for it.

Article 7

EXECUTION OF REQUESTS

- (1) The requested Competent Authority shall take all necessary measures to ensure prompt and full execution of requests.
- (2) The requesting Competent Authority shall immediately be notified of any circumstances hampering execution of the request or considerable delay in its execution.
- (3) If the execution of the request is not in the competence of the requested Competent Authority, it shall immediately notify the requesting Competent Authority about it.

- (4) The requested Competent Authority may request the further information which it deems necessary to duly execute the request.
- (5) If the requested Competent Authority considers that the immediate execution of the request may hamper criminal prosecution, other proceedings or investigations being carried out in its country, it may suspend the execution of the request or allow the execution under conditions which were set as necessary after consultations with the requesting Competent Authority. If the requesting Competent Authority agrees to receive assistance under the suggested conditions, it should comply with these conditions.
- (6) The requested Competent Authority, following the application of the requesting Competent Authority, shall take all necessary measures to ensure confidentiality of the fact that the request was made, its contents and annexed documents, as well as the fact of providing assistance. If it is not possible to execute the request without preserving its confidentiality, the requested Competent Authority shall inform the requesting Competent Authority accordingly, and the latter may decide whether it is acceptable to execute the request under such conditions.
- (7) The requested Competent Authority shall at its earliest convenience inform the requesting Competent Authority about the results of the execution of the request.

Article 8

LIMITATIONS RELATING TO THE USE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

- (1) Each Competent Authority shall ensure the confidentiality of information and documents received from the other Competent Authority, if they are restricted or the latter Competent Authority disapproves of its disclosure. The degree of such a restriction shall be determined by the providing Competent Authority.
- (2) Information received in accordance with this Agreement shall not be used without the consent of the providing Competent Authority for purposes other than those for which they were requested and provided.
- (3) In order to share information with a third party, information received by a Competent Authority in accordance with this Agreement, the prior consent of the providing Competent Authority shall be obligatory.

Article 9

EXPENSES

The Parties shall bear their own expenses which may arise in the course of implementation of this Agreement, except if it is agreed otherwise.

Article 10

LANGUAGE

The Competent Authorities, in the course of their co-operation in accordance with this Agreement, shall use the English or Russian languages.

Article 11

WORKING MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS

The representatives of the Competent Authorities shall, where necessary, have working meetings and consultations to discuss and improve co-operation in accordance with this Agreement.

Article 12

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation.

Article 13

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

The provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations arising out of other international treaties of the States of the Parties.

Article 14

ENTRY INTO FORCE, TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT

- (1) This Agreement shall enter into force following the date on which the Parties have notified each other in writing through the diplomatic channel of their compliance with their constitutional requirements and/or internal validation procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement. The date of entry into force shall be the date of the last notification.
- (2) This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by either Party giving six months notification thereof to the other Party through the diplomatic channel.

- (3) This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties through an Exchange of Notes, between the Parties, through the diplomatic channel.

DONE AT on this *12th* day of *MARCH*
in this year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Eight, in the Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Abuyamadi.

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FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SOUTH AFRICA

[Signature]

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FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION