

**No. 11735**

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**FRANCE  
and  
GABON**

**Basic Agreement in the field of higher education. Signed at  
Libreville on 30 April 1971**

**Convention annexed to the above-mentioned Agreement.  
Signed at Libreville on 1 May 1971**

*Authentic texts: French.*

*Registered by France on 19 April 1972.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
GABON**

**Accord cadre en matière d'enseignement supérieur. Signé à  
Libreville le 30 avril 1971**

**Convention annexe à l'Accord susmentionné. Signée à  
Libreville le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1971**

*Textes authentiques : français.*

*Enregistrés par la France le 19 avril 1972.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

**BASIC AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GABONESE REPUBLIC. SIGNED AT LIBREVILLE ON 30 APRIL 1971**

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The Government of the Gabonese Republic and the Government of the French Republic,

Considering the special ties which freely unite the Gabonese Republic and the French Republic, as established by the Franco-Gabonese co-operation agreements of 17 August 1960;<sup>2</sup>

Desiring to develop the intellectual, spiritual and linguistic bonds thus established between the two countries within the community of French-speaking nations;

Recognizing that the training of professional personnel adapted to the realities of the national situation is an essential requirement in the context of development goals;

Recognizing that the University is one of the most reliable ways of creating a cultural atmosphere favourable to the harmonious development of young nations,

Have decided to conclude an Agreement for that purpose and have agreed on the following provisions:

*Article I*

At the request of the Government of the Gabonese Republic, the French Republic shall assist the Gabonese Republic in establishing and developing in its territory a high standard of higher education and also continuing educational activities in keeping with the desire for advancement of the Gabonese people.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 30 April 1971 by signature, in accordance with article VI.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 820, Nos. I-11725, I-11726 and I-11727, as well as pp. 3, 11, 17, 41, 49, 55 and 63 of this volume.

Higher education shall normally be open to holders of the *baccalauréat* or of a diploma recognized as the equivalent thereof.

For the purposes of this Agreement, higher education in the territory of the Gabonese Republic includes instruction given in university institutions and in institutions which provide training and advanced training for senior scientific, teaching, technical and administrative personnel and are engaged in the acquisition and transfer of knowledge.

### Article II

The Government of the French Republic shall endeavour, in particular by granting scholarships and research fellowships and by organizing training courses and special seminars, to provide training for nationals of the Gabonese Republic at institutions of higher education and research in the French Republic if such training cannot be provided in the territory of the Gabonese Republic and, in the case of the *grandes écoles*, to facilitate their admission.

The Government of the Gabonese Republic shall, for its part, facilitate the admission of French students and research workers into universities and research centres in Gabon, and also the organization of training courses and special seminars in those institutions.

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Gabonese Republic shall promote exchange of teachers and research workers who, while continuing their activities in the host country, wish to carry out research or to increase their knowledge of specific subjects for which that country has suitable facilities.

### Article III

The amount of French assistance and the procedures for implementing it, particularly with regard to personnel, operations and investments, shall be specified in multiannual programmes, determined by mutual agreement, which shall be implemented each year in accordance with the decisions of a Franco-Gabonese Committee having an equal number of members from each Party. These provisions shall be set forth in conventions annexed to this Agreement.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See p. 79 of this volume.

*Article IV*

The Gabonese authorities shall determine the organization and content of the instruction provided by the various institutions of higher education established in the Gabonese Republic.

Degrees and diplomas awarded by the universities or institutions of higher education of the Gabonese Republic under the same conditions with regard to entrance qualifications, attendance requirements and examinations as the corresponding French degrees and diplomas shall be automatically valid in the territory of the French Republic and shall — subject to any provisions to the contrary relating to the establishment of nationals of the Gabonese Republic in the territory of the French Republic — have in the said territory all such effects as attach to the latter under French laws and regulations.

Degrees and diplomas awarded by universities or institutions of higher education of the French Republic under the same conditions with regard to entrance qualifications, attendance requirements and examinations as the corresponding Gabonese degrees and diplomas shall be automatically valid in the territory of the Gabonese Republic and shall — subject to any provisions to the contrary relating to the establishment of nationals of the French Republic in the territory of the Gabonese Republic — have in the said territory all such effects as attach to the latter under Gabonese laws and regulations.

Degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded for special instruction corresponding to the particular needs of either Contracting Party may be recognized as the equivalent of the corresponding degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by the universities and institutions of higher education of the other Party in accordance with its national procedures.

*Article V*

A Franco-Gabonese Committee having an equal number of members from each Party shall be established to keep under review the application of this Agreement. Its composition, operation and the frequency of its meetings shall be determined in the Convention annexed hereto.

*Article VI*

This Agreement and its annexes shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of signatures.

This Agreement may be denounced by either Contracting Party, in which case it shall cease to have effect twelve months after the notification of denunciation.

DONE in duplicate, at Libreville, on 30 April 1971.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

JEAN HERLY

For the Government  
of the Gabonese Republic:

[Signed]

ALBERT-BERNARD BONGO

CONVENTION <sup>1</sup> ANNEXED TO THE BASIC AGREEMENT IN  
THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION BETWEEN THE  
FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GABONESE REPUBLIC <sup>2</sup>

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After signing, on 30 April 1971, the Basic Agreement in the field of Higher Education between the French Republic and the Gabonese Republic,<sup>2</sup> the two Contracting Parties have agreed on the following provisions:

*Article I*

The Franco-Gabonese Committee having an equal number of members from each Party shall be composed of six full members, three of whom shall be appointed by the French Government and three by the Gabonese Government.

The two delegations may invite any experts they deem necessary.

*Article II*

The Committee shall meet at least once a year, either at Paris or at Libreville.

*Article III*

In the intervals between meetings of the Committee, groups of experts may be established by agreement between the Parties. These experts shall submit their conclusions to their respective Government.

*Article IV*

Each Party shall defray the travel and subsistence costs of its representatives.

*Article V*

This annexed Convention has been drawn up in duplicate at Libreville on 1 May 1971.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 May 1971 by signature.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 71 of this volume.

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

JEAN HERLY

Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of the Department  
of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Affairs  
at the Office of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Gabonese Republic:

[Signed]

His Excellency

JÉRÔME OKINDA

Minister for National Education and Culture

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