

**No. 13426**

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**FRANCE  
and  
MAURITANIA**

**Agreement on cultural co-operation (with exchanges of letters). Signed at Nouakchott on 15 February 1973**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 9 July 1974.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
MAURITANIE**

**Accord de coopération culturelle (avec échanges de lettres).  
Signé à Nouakchott le 15 février 1973**

*Texte authentique: français.*

*Enregistré par la France le 9 juillet 1974.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN  
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, mindful of the value of the cultural ties which unite their two countries and desiring to promote mutual understanding between them on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of each of the two partners, have agreed as follows:

## CHAPTER I

## PURPOSES AND NATURE OF CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

*Article 1.* The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania undertake to co-operate in the fields of education, the training of personnel, scientific research and cultural exchanges.

*Article 2.* The purpose of such co-operation shall be to enable each Contracting Party, with the assistance of the other Party and with mutual respect for their national cultures and systems of education, to develop those systems in order to provide for the training of the personnel needed for development, the collective advancement of society and the fulfilment of the individual.

*Article 3.* This co-operation shall take the form, *inter alia*, of the sending of teachers, the provision of study fellowships and training courses, and assistance in the creation or expansion of schools and universities, in particular for the training of teachers and technical personnel.

*Article 4.* Where necessary, either of the Contracting Parties may be authorized by the other Party to open, for the use of its own nationals, educational establishments providing an education consistent with its own curricula, time-tables and teaching methods and conferring its own diplomas.

*Article 5.* The Contracting Parties shall determine, in special agreements, the conditions governing the equivalence of the diplomas awarded in the educational and training establishments of the two countries.

## CHAPTER II

## CO-OPERATION PERSONNEL

*Article 6.* The status of the co-operation personnel made available to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania under this Agreement on cultural co-

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 15 February 1973 by signature, in accordance with article 17.

operation is defined in the Agreement on technical co-operation in personnel matters<sup>1</sup> concluded between the French Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

*Article 7.* Under the provisions of article 4 of the above-mentioned Agreement on technical co-operation, the Government of the French Republic shall, to the best of its ability and in accordance with the programmes established by agreement between the Parties, provide the teaching and training personnel requested by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

*Article 8.* In order to permit the normal career development of French teaching personnel, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania undertakes to authorize missions by inspectors and the organization of the necessary competitive and other professional examinations. In this spirit, it shall facilitate the continuous control of such personnel, in accordance with French regulations.

### CHAPTER III

#### MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL MEANS OF CO-OPERATION

*Article 9.* The Government of the French Republic undertakes to assist in the training of personnel by offering the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania study fellowships and training courses in universities, establishments and organizations situated in France, in Mauritania or in other African countries.

The number, nature and conditions for the award of such fellowships shall be the subject of a special agreement, which may be revised annually.

*Article 10.* Mauritanian students in receipt of fellowships in France shall have the same advantages as French students. They shall comply with the laws and regulations of the host country.

### CHAPTER IV

#### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

*Article 11.* The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania undertake to organize and to expand their co-operation in the field of scientific and technical research.

*Article 12.* The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in establishing its national scientific and technical research structures, in particular in organizing research and the implementation of national programmes

<sup>1</sup> See p. 161 of this volume.

of scientific and technical research, both fundamental and applied. It shall also assist in the training and advanced training of Mauritanian research personnel.

*Article 13.* The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania may authorize, in its territory, the initiation of French research programmes and the implementation of joint programmes with the participation of French research workers and organizations. The conditions governing the implementation of these various programmes shall be determined in special protocols.

## CHAPTER V

### CULTURAL EXCHANGES

*Article 14.* The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania decide to work together for the development of the sciences, the arts and literature in order to promote a better understanding of their cultural heritage.

The Contracting Parties shall facilitate cultural exchanges between their countries by organizing instructional travel, courses and exchanges of teachers and young people.

Subject to the laws and regulations in force in each country, the two Parties shall encourage the exchange of documents, equipment and experience in the fields of publications, films and radio broadcasting, thereby promoting a better understanding of their respective civilizations.

## CHAPTER VI

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

*Article 15.* Subject to its domestic legislation regarding the control of publications, gramophone records, films and books, each Party undertakes to admit, free of customs duties, general and special taxes, all materials sent by the other Party for use in teaching and cultural activities, and in the scientific research activities referred to in article 13 above.

*Article 16.* A Mixed Commission shall be established to supervise the implementation of this Agreement.

The Commission shall be empowered to deal with all questions relating to cultural co-operation and shall meet as necessary, alternately in France and in Mauritania.

*Article 17.* This Agreement shall take effect on the date of its signature; it shall remain in effect for a period of three years and may be renewed by tacit agreement.

Either Contracting Party may notify the other Party in writing of its intention to revise part of this Agreement at least three months prior to the intended date of such revision.

Either Party may denounce this Agreement completely; in that event, it shall automatically cease to have effect six months following the date of notification of the denunciation.

DONE at Nouakchott on 15 February 1973.

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

PIERRE BILLECOCQ

Secretary of State for Co-operation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania:

[Signed]

HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS RELATING TO THE AGREEMENT ON  
CULTURAL CO-OPERATION CONCERNING THE SPECIAL  
SOCIAL SECURITY REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO  
MAURITANIAN STUDENTS IN FRANCE

*I a*

FRENCH REPUBLIC

SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-OPERATION

Nouakchott, 15 February 1973

Sir,

Article 10 of the Agreement on cultural co-operation between the French Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania stipulates that "Mauritanian students in receipt of fellowships in France shall have the same advantages as French students. They shall comply with the laws and regulations of the host country."

Existing social insurance regulations applicable to Mauritanian students in France are those stipulated in the Franco-Mauritanian Protocol of 22 July 1965.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, where a Mauritanian student in France in receipt of a

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 651, p. 140.

fellowship from the French Government can no longer, by reason of age, benefit under the provisions of the said Protocol, he may receive, in his own right, the sickness benefits provided for under the special social security regulations applicable to students in France. In that event, such allowances are paid to him by the French organization administering his fellowship.

I have the honour to inform you that all these provisions will remain in force and that, if the existing general social security regulations applicable to students in France are amended to provide for greater benefits, Mauritanian students in receipt of French fellowships in France will benefit from any such new and more favourable general regulations, in accordance with a new Protocol supplementing or replacing the provisions currently in force.

The Government of the French Republic would be grateful if the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania would inform it whether it agrees to the above provisions.

Accept, Sir, etc.

PIERRE BILLECOCQ

His Excellency Mr. Hamdi Ould Mouknass  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

## II a

*The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic*

Nouakchott, 15 February 1973

Sir,

On 15 February 1973 you addressed to me the following letter:

[See letter I a]

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania agrees to the above provisions.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]  
HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF  
FRENCH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

I b

FRENCH REPUBLIC  
SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-OPERATION

Nouakchott, 15 February 1973

Sir,

The Government of the French Republic, wishing to make qualified technical assistants available to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and considering that the assurance of a sound education for their children is often the *sine qua non* for the recruitment of such personnel, requests the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to consider in a spirit of broad understanding any proposal designed to guarantee a satisfactory education for French children and young people.

The Government of the French Republic considers that the spirit of co-operation implies that, as far as possible, French children and young people should receive their education in the same establishments, according to the same time-tables and curricula and with the same teachers as Mauritanian children and young people. However, since the implementation of the educational reform currently being contemplated in Mauritania will result in a system very different from the French system, it is necessary to provide henceforth for special structures to accommodate French children and young people.

Wishing to maintain the spirit of co-operation referred to above and to avoid any scholastic segregation, and referring also to the solutions currently being implemented in primary education at Nouakchott and Nouadhibou (French sections of the market school and of school II), the Government of the French Republic requests that "foreign sections", having time-tables and curricula consistent with those in effect in the territory of the French Republic, should be maintained or, where necessary, established in certain Mauritanian primary and secondary schools.

The French Republic is prepared to facilitate the establishment of such sections, and also plans to make available to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania the teachers needed for their operation.

The Government of the French Republic would be grateful if the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania would inform it whether it agrees to the provisions set out in this note and to the measures recommended.

Accept, Sir, etc.

PIERRE BILLECOCQ

His Excellency Mr. Hamdi Ould Mouknass  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

## II b

*The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic*

Sir,

On 15 February 1973 you addressed to me the following letter:

[See letter I b]

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania agrees to the provisions set out in that letter and to the measures recommended.

Accept, Sir, etc.

Nouakchott, 15 February 1973.

[Signed]

HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS