

**No. 15767**

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**FRANCE  
and  
VENEZUELA**

**Basic Agreement on cultural, scientific and technical co-  
operation. Signed at Caracas on 15 November 1974**

*Authentic texts: French and Spanish.*

*Registered by France on 30 June 1977.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
VENEZUELA**

**Accord-cadre de coopération culturelle, scientifique et  
technique. Signé à Caracas le 15 novembre 1974**

*Textes authentiques : français et espagnol.*

*Enregistré par la France le 30 juin 1977.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

**BASIC AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

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

Desiring to consolidate the friendly relations existing between the two countries;

Resolved to encourage by mutual agreement wider dissemination of their languages and cultures and to strengthen relations between them in the fields of education, literature, science and the arts;

Desiring to lay the bases for broader cultural, scientific and technical co-operation;

Aware of the common interest in promoting the economic and social development of the two nations;

Aware of the mutual advantages that would result from a co-ordinated exchange of scientific and technical knowledge with a view to the attainment of the above-mentioned goals;

Have agreed as follows:

FIRST PART. CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

*Article I.* The Contracting Parties undertake to promote the development of the teaching of the language, literature and civilization of the other country, particularly at the secondary and university levels and through the mass communication media, particularly radio and television.

*Article II.* The Contracting Parties shall assist one another in encouraging the teaching of the language and culture of the other country, particularly by organizing advanced training courses and by sending teachers, research workers, assistant teachers and students to the other country.

*Article III.* Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to develop scholarship programmes for students and research workers wishing to pursue studies or undergo further training in the other country.

*Article IV.* Each Contracting Party undertakes to encourage in its territory the operation of any cultural, educational and scientific institutions of the other Party. Such institutions shall be accorded every facility for their operation within the limits of the legislation in force in the country in which they are established.

*Article V.* The Contracting Parties shall encourage the study and teaching of, and research into, the history, literature, music, folk arts and traditions of the other

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 3 August 1976, the date of the last of the notifications (effected on 13 January and 3 August 1976) by which the Contracting Parties informed each other of the fulfilment of the required constitutional procedures, in accordance with article XXVIII (1).

country. In addition, bearing in mind the special importance of archives, libraries and museums for the knowledge and study of their history and geography, the Contracting Parties shall grant access to research workers of the other Party in the most favourable conditions within the limits of the legislation in force.

*Article VI.* The Contracting Parties shall facilitate visits and missions by their teachers, research workers, scientists, writers, journalists, artists, athletes and other public figures who may be called on to participate in meetings or symposia, or sports competitions, or to deliver lectures, write or prepare works, literary articles, newspaper reports or exhibitions or to undertake similar activities involving cultural, artistic, scientific, historical, literary or sports topics of interest to both countries.

*Article VII.* The Contracting Parties shall encourage the organization of concerts, exhibitions, theatrical performances and other artistic events designed to make their respective cultures better known.

Articles intended for exhibition shall be admitted temporarily free of all import duty, provided that the exhibition is being sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerned. If these articles are to be sold subsequently or to be used for other lucrative purposes, they shall be liable to the corresponding duty.

*Article VIII.* The Contracting Parties shall facilitate the entry into their respective territories and the distribution therein of books, periodicals, magazines, catalogues and other cultural publications, photographic, cinematographic and musical works (in the form of scores or recordings) and radio and television programmes, works of art and reproductions of such works originating in the other Contracting Party. The Contracting Parties shall agree to establish a procedure determining the facilities to be accorded to the above-mentioned articles upon entry into their respective territories, in view of their purely cultural purpose.

*Article IX.* Literary, artistic, scientific, cinematographic, radio and television works and other works of a similar nature which are protected under the legislation of either Contracting Party shall enjoy, in the territory of the other Party, the protection which the latter gives in its own territory to the above-mentioned works presented there for the first time, in accordance with the international conventions and agreements binding the two Parties.

*Article X.* The Contracting Parties shall grant one another, to the extent permitted by their regulations, the facilities needed to intensify relations between their respective official radio and television networks, through cultural, artistic, sports and educational programmes.

*Article XI.* The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to establish equivalence between the diplomas accorded by, and periods of study spent in, France and Venezuela for the purpose of the pursuit of studies in the other country.

*Article XII.* The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to exchange publications. Each Party shall promote the dissemination of the works received.

#### SECOND PART. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

*Article XIII.* The Contracting Parties shall agree to co-operate in every scientific and technical area of interest to the two countries.

The Contracting Parties shall jointly draw up and implement scientific and technical co-operation programmes and projects designed to accelerate and promote economic development and social welfare.

*Article XIV.* The scientific and technical co-operation provided for in this Agreement and in the supplementary agreements arising therefrom may consist of:

- (a) the exchange of technical and scientific information and documentation between bodies designated by the Contracting Parties;
- (b) the sending of technicians, teachers, scientists, research workers and experts to undertake teaching, advisory and assistance missions for the study, preparation and implementation of specific programmes and projects;
- (c) the organization of lecture series and of training and refresher programmes, courses and seminars in all areas of common interest;
- (d) the granting of fellowships and apprenticeships to enable duly selected and designated candidates from both countries to participate, in the other country, in research, studies or practical courses of vocational training, training or specialization in areas of common interest;
- (e) the study, preparation and implementation, jointly or in a co-ordinated manner, of research and development programmes and projects;
- (f) the sending or exchange of material and equipment needed to develop such co-operation;
- (g) the sharing of scientific and technical facilities in accordance with prior agreements;
- (h) any other scientific and technical co-operation to which the Contracting Parties may agree.

*Article XV.* The exchange of scientific and technical information outlined in the preceding article may be subject, at the request of either Party, to special conditions relating to the suppression or limited dissemination of such information.

*Article XVI.* The Contracting Parties may, if they deem it necessary, jointly request the participation of international agencies in the financing or execution of programmes and projects resulting from the forms of co-operation contemplated in this Agreement or in the supplementary agreements that may arise therefrom pursuant to article XVIII.

*Article XVII.* All persons entrusted with a co-operation mission under this Agreement must receive the prior approval of the competent authorities of the applicant State. In performing their mission, as defined by mutual agreement, they shall receive their instructions from the authorities of the host agency.

### THIRD PART. COMMON PROVISIONS

*Article XVIII.* Specific scientific and technical co-operation programmes and projects and cultural exchanges shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and by means of supplementary agreements, if any; the latter shall specify, among other things, the objectives of such programmes and projects, how they are to be financed, time-tables for work and the obligations of each of the Contracting Parties. The supplementary agreements shall be drawn up by the competent agencies designated by the two Parties.

*Article XIX.* The competent authorities of each Party shall be responsible for planning and co-ordinating, in accordance with the legislation in force, the execution of activities outlined in this Agreement and in the supplementary agreements concluded in pursuance of it and for making the necessary arrangements for that purpose.

*Article XX.* Teachers, experts and technicians of one Party who are seconded to public bodies or academic institutions of the other Party shall receive from the latter remuneration at least equal to that of local staff at the same level. Volunteers from the French Service national actif shall continue to be covered by a special arrangement.

*Article XXI.* 1. A mixed French-Venezuelan commission, meeting alternately in Paris and Caracas, shall be entrusted with monitoring the implementation of this Agreement. Its purpose shall be, *inter alia*, to:

- (a) determine and define those sectors in which special programmes and projects of cultural exchanges and scientific and technical co-operation could be carried out and to decide their order of priority;
- (b) propose, evaluate and recommend special programmes and projects of cultural exchanges and scientific and technical co-operation;
- (c) evaluate the results of the special projects implemented under this Agreement with a view to achieving greater effectiveness.

2. Each Party may at any time submit proposals for cultural exchanges and scientific and technical co-operation, using the ordinary diplomatic channels for that purpose. Similarly, each Party may propose special meetings to consider a particular issue.

*Article XXII.* The Contracting Parties shall facilitate the duty-free import of articles from the other Party as part of the cultural, scientific and technical co-operation covered by this Agreement.

Articles imported free of duty in accordance with the preceding paragraph may be alienated in the territory of the other Party only in such manner as may be determined by the competent authorities of that territory.

*Article XXIII.* The Contracting Parties shall adopt measures to facilitate the entry, sojourn and movement of the citizens of the other Party who are performing activities under this Agreement and any supplementary agreements, taking into account the provisions of domestic legislation concerning aliens.

The Contracting Parties shall facilitate the administrative arrangements for the issuance of visas and the completion of customs and fiscal formalities.

*Article XXIV.* The Contracting Parties shall grant facilities, under their domestic regulations, to teachers, experts and technicians from the other Party performing activities under this Agreement to import their personal effects and furniture and to import their personal automobile temporarily free of duty.

*Article XXV.* Each Contracting Party shall grant to teachers, experts and technicians sent to its territory by the other Party under this Agreement exemption from taxes in respect of the portion of their remuneration paid to them by the sending Government. The right to tax that portion shall be reserved for that Government. The Contracting Parties shall also permit, under the existing regulations, remittance

of the remuneration received by teachers, experts and technicians to their country of origin and the remittance of fees of artists who participate in events organized pursuant to article VII as well as of authors' and performers' royalties.

*Article XXVI.* The Contracting Parties shall determine the measures necessary under the legislation in force to provide tax incentives for the establishment and operation of the institutions referred to in article IV of this Agreement.

*Article XXVII.* Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved by the peaceful means recognized under international law.

*Article XXVIII.* 1. Each Contracting Party shall notify the other of the fulfilment of its constitutional requirements for the ratification of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last such notification.

2. It may be revised by mutual agreement or denounced by either Party at any time. In the event of denunciation, it shall cease to have effect six months after the date on which the notification of denunciation is received.

3. The denunciation referred to in the preceding paragraph shall not affect the continuation of ongoing projects or the implementation of any supplementary agreements which may have been drawn up under article XVIII of this Agreement.

DONE at Caracas, on 15 November 1974, in two copies, in the French and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ANDRÉ RODOCANACHI

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of the Republic of Venezuela:

[Signed]

EFRAÍN SCHACHT ARISTEGUIETA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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