

**No. 16686**

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**FRANCE  
and  
BENIN**

**Convention on deep-sea fishing. Signed at Cotonou on  
27 February 1975**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 11 May 1978.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
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**Convention en matière de pêche maritime. Signée à Cotonou  
le 27 février 1975**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistrée par la France le 11 mai 1978.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> ON DEEP-SEA FISHING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF DAHOMEY

The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand,  
The Government of the Republic of Dahomey, on the other hand,  
Have agreed as follows:

*Article I.* The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Dahomey shall consider this Agreement as the instrument henceforward governing their relations in matters concerning deep-sea fishing.

*Article II.* Vessels having the nationality of one of the Contracting Parties shall be authorized to fish in the territorial waters of the other Party in accordance with that Party's legislation.

Vessels exercising their fishing rights under the conditions laid down in the preceding paragraph shall not be required to pay taxes, dues or fees greater than those imposed on vessels of the other Party.

In the event of the adoption of any measure extending the waters under the jurisdiction of either Party, vessels of the other Party may continue to fish there, subject to the conditions laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article.

*Article III.* The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Dahomey undertake to promote mutual co-operation in the fishing sector by encouraging the establishment of semi-public corporations.

At the request of the Government of the Republic of Dahomey, the Government of the French Republic undertakes to contribute to the financing of:

- the implementation of programmes for the construction of fishing vessels in French shipyards;
- the establishment of ship-building yards in Dahomey;
- the provision of appropriate infrastructures for the promotion of small-scale fishing.

The implementation of these projects drawn up by the Government of the Republic of Dahomey shall be the subject of individual financing agreements.

*Article IV.* The two Governments undertake to work together to ensure the preservation and conservation of fisheries resources, to strengthen international co-operation and to safeguard their interests in the eastern central region of the Atlantic.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 January 1978, i.e., the first day of the second month following the exchange of instruments of approval, which took place at Paris on 18 November 1977, in accordance with article IX.

*Article V.* Subject to the provisions of the second and third paragraphs of this article, Dahomean seamen may be allowed on board French vessels and French seamen on board Dahomean vessels, without the provisions relating to the nationality of crew members being invoked.

On board vessels of both countries, however, the functions of shipmaster and radio officer may be exercised only by nationals of the country of registry of the vessel, save in the case of special waivers. Such waivers shall be granted by the Government of one Party at the request of the Government of the other Party.

Dahomean seamen may serve on board French vessels and French seamen on board Dahomean vessels only if in other respects they satisfy the various other requirements, including professional skill, governing the exercise of the functions they are to perform on board those vessels.

Equivalence between French and Dahomean maritime training certificates may be established by agreement between the two Governments.

*Article VI.* As a temporary measure and pending the conclusion of a general agreement in matters of social security, French seamen serving on vessels of Dahomean registry and Dahomean seamen serving on vessels of French registry shall continue to receive the benefits provided by the Legislative Decree of 17 June 1938, as amended, and by the Code for Seamen's Retirement Pensions, in respect of French seamen, and by Ordinance No. 70-17/D/MFPRAT of 25 March 1970, in respect of Dahomean seamen, subject to payment of the corresponding contributions.

*Article VII.* At the request of the Republic of Dahomey, the French Republic shall offer its help in the training of seamen and officers for fishing vessels, who may be admitted to the merchant marine schools of the French Republic; the French Government shall facilitate the training of Dahomean seamen and officers to the fullest extent possible, *inter alia*, by allowing them to serve on board vessels of French registry and by providing instruction for trainees.

*Article VIII.* Any difficulties in the application of this Agreement, and more especially those relating to tuna fishing, shall give rise to consultations within the framework of a special commission to be set up as part of the main commission envisaged in article 3 of the General Agreement.<sup>1</sup> This special commission may be convened at any time at the request of one or other of the Parties.

*Article IX.* This Agreement replaces and abrogates the Agreement on co-operation in matters concerning the merchant marine of 24 April 1961.<sup>2</sup> It is concluded for a term of two years renewable by tacit agreement. Notice of termination shall be given through the diplomatic channel at least six months in advance.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1088, No. I-16675.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 811, p. 219.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the exchange of instruments of approval, which shall take place at Paris as soon as possible.

DONE at Cotonou, on 27 February 1975.

For the Government of the French Republic:

*[Signed]*

PIERRE ABELIN  
Minister for Co-operation

For the Government of the Republic of Dahomey:

*[Signed]*

MICHEL ALLADAYE  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
and Co-operation

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