

No. 16678

FRANCE
and
BENIN

**Agreement on co-operation in the field of higher education
(with exchanges of letters). Signed at Cotonou on
27 February 1975**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 11 May 1978.

FRANCE
et
BÉNIN

**Accord de coopération en matière d'enseignement supérieur
(avec échanges de lettres). Signé à Cotonou le 27 février
1975**

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la France le 11 mai 1978.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 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 Republic of Dahomey shall draw up a development plan for higher education and shall decide on measures to ensure its implementation.

Article II. At the request of the Government of the Republic of Dahomey, the Government of the French Republic shall assist it in establishing and developing in its territory higher education of an international standard for the purpose of training the personnel needed for economic, social and cultural development.

For the purposes of this Agreement, higher education includes instruction given in university institutions and in institutions which provide training and advanced training for senior scientific, teaching, technical and administrative personnel of the Republic of Dahomey.

Article III. The Government of the Republic of Dahomey and the Government of the French Republic undertake to encourage the development of inter-university relations through individual arrangements between universities.

Article IV. The Government of the Republic of Dahomey and the Government of the French Republic shall, in the main commission provided for in article 3 of the General Agreement,² jointly establish the programmes of several years' duration which will serve as the framework for the provision of assistance by France; such assistance shall consist of the supplying of personnel, the allocation of funds, the granting of scholarships and research fellowships, the organization of training courses, and the like.

Article V. The various arrangements for the implementation of these programmes shall be drawn up annually by the main commission and shall concern, *inter alia*, the assignment of personnel, the operation of institutions, missions of experts, teaching and scientific equipment, scholarships or training courses.

Article VI. At its annual meeting, the main commission shall also review the investment and equipment projects of institutions of higher education drawn up by the Government of Dahomey.

Article VII. During a period the conclusion of which shall be determined by mutual agreement, the French Government shall provide the Government of

¹ 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 X.

² See p. 331 of this volume.

Dahomey with an annual outright grant in the form of a lump-sum payment representing a portion of the salaries of Dahomean personnel at the University of Dahomey who had previously been paid by the Government of the French Republic.

Article VIII. At its annual meeting, the main commission shall give its opinion regarding diplomas and certificates in respect of which equivalence may be requested. Diplomas and certificates awarded by institutions of higher education in the Republic of Dahomey and in the French Republic may be recognized by each State in its territory as the equivalent of its own diplomas, in accordance with the requisite national procedures.

Article IX. Difficulties arising out of the implementation of this Agreement shall be within the competence of the main commission provided for in article 3 of the General Agreement.

Article X. This Agreement replaces and abrogates the Agreement on co-operation in the field of higher education of 24 April 1961.¹ It is concluded for a period of two years renewable by tacit agreement. Notice of termination must be given through the diplomatic channel at least six months in advance.

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

EXCHANGES OF LETTERS

I a

Cotonou, 27 February 1975

Sir,

Article VII of the draft Agreement on co-operation in the field of higher education stipulates:

“During a period the conclusion of which shall be determined by mutual agreement, the French Government shall provide the Government of Dahomey

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 811, p. 105.

with an annual outright grant in the form of a lump-sum payment representing a portion of the salaries of Dahomean personnel at the University of Dahomey who had previously been paid by the Government of the French Republic.”

The Government of the French Republic considers that the aforementioned grant should facilitate the transfer to the Dahomean civil service of Dahomean higher education personnel who had been paid by the French Secretariat of State for Universities until 30 September 1974.

It also believes that a phase-out period for the payment of this grant should be agreed by the Parties. It therefore proposes that, beginning with the academic year 1974/75, the Dahomean Treasury should receive a grant calculated on the basis of the salaries of the personnel concerned as at 30 September 1974, taking into account any promotions of such staff, overtime and relocation allowances, up to a total of 93,523,900 CFA francs, or 1,870,478 francs. This grant shall be paid to Dahomey in full for the following academic years: 1974/75; 1975/76; 1976/77; 1977/78.

Subsequently, the grant shall be gradually reduced and shall be calculated by applying the following percentages to the original amount: 1978/79, 85 per cent; 1979/80, 70 per cent; 1980/81, 55 per cent; 1981/82, 40 per cent; 1982/83, 20 per cent; with the result that it will have been phased out by 30 September 1983.

At the request of the Dahomean Party, the French Party shall agree to make a final quarterly payment at the rate of 20 per cent to complete the 1983 calendar year.

The Government of the French Republic specifies that this grant shall apply to all established and non-established members of the French civil service of Dahomean nationality who are serving in Dahomey.

Established members of the French civil service may retain the benefit of their current status, if they so desire, by reporting their wishes to the Secretariat of State for Universities, which shall order their reinstatement in France.

I should be grateful if you would kindly inform me whether the Government of the Republic of Dahomey endorses the intent of and the measures advocated in this letter.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

PIERRE ABELIN

Minister for Co-operation
of the French Republic

Mr. Michel Alladaye
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation
of the Republic of Dahomey

II a

Cotonou, 27 February 1975

Sir,

In a letter of today's date, you informed me of the following:

[See letter I a]

I have the honour to inform you of the agreement of my Government to the above proposal.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

MICHEL ALLADAYE
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Co-operation
of the Republic of Dahomey

Mr. Pierre Abelin
Minister for Co-operation
of the French Republic

I b

Cotonou, 27 February 1975

Sir,

In the course of discussions relating to the revision of the Agreements on co-operation between our two countries, the subject of university scholarships was accorded particular attention. To meet the request of the Dahomean Government, it was agreed that university scholarships granted by the French Government to Dahomean students for studies in France would be abolished, that the funds thus released would be allocated for additional scholarships for studies in Dahomey, and that the procedure for the payment of scholarships awarded by the French Republic to Dahomean nationals enrolled at the University of Dahomey would henceforth differ from that previously in force.

A. The following measures shall apply with regard to the abolition of scholarships in France and the use of the funds thus made available:

1. The total appropriation, fixed by mutual agreement at 600,000 francs, equivalent to 50 university scholarships in France for first-, second- and third-year students at an annual average cost of 12,000 francs, shall be transferred to CIES in accordance with the timetable and provisions set out in paragraph 2 below, with a view to awarding scholarships to students at the University of Dahomey;
2. The abolition of scholarships in France shall begin on a date, and shall proceed at a rate and in accordance with a timetable, to be established by mutual agreement. It shall begin at least two months prior to the end of the academic year and shall be based on the number of scholarship-holders and the financial data referred to in paragraph 1 above, on the understanding that:

- (a) The students concerned shall be informed as soon as possible by the Government of the Republic of Dahomey and by the Government of the French Republic of the date of entry into force of these provisions and in any event before the end of the academic year, namely, 30 June;
- (b) After the introduction of these measures, current holders of scholarships from the Fonds d'aide et de coopération (FAC) shall continue to live in a home or residence administered by FAC until the date on which the scholarship granted by the Dahomean Government is abolished, or shall be relocated in another institution administered by FAC, provided that the recipient pays his rent in the same conditions as when he was an FAC scholarship-holder.

B. The following procedure shall be adopted with regard to the new conditions for the award and payment of scholarships granted by the French Republic to Dahomean students at the University of Dahomey:

1. Monthly preparation by the Paris International Centre for Students and Trainees (CIES) of individual payment orders in the name of each scholarship-holder, indicating the exact amount payable to that person;
2. Monthly payment to the accountant of the University of Dahomey of the funds corresponding to the total payment orders;
3. Payment by the University accountant of the monthly scholarships on presentation of receipts signed by the directors of institutions. Initialling by each scholarship recipient of the receipt and of the payment list;
4. Return by the bursar to CIES, within a maximum of two months, of:
 - The initialled payment list;
 - The receipts.

The amount of funds corresponding to unpaid scholarships shall be communicated quarterly to the International Centre for Students and Trainees in the form of a balance report, it being understood that the resulting unexpended balance shall be deducted from subsequent appropriations for the payment of scholarships. Furthermore, notification of this balance shall be a condition for the appropriation of funds, and a general summary statement shall be provided at the end of the academic year, by 31 August at the latest.

I should be grateful if you would kindly confirm to me the agreement of the Government of the Republic of Dahomey to the above procedures.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

PIERRE ABELIN
Minister for Co-operation
of the French Republic

Mr. Michel Alladaye
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation
of the Republic of Dahomey

II b

Cotonou, 27 February 1975

Sir,

In a letter of today's date you informed me of the following:

[See letter I b]

I have the honour to inform you of the agreement of my Government to the above proposal.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

MICHEL ALLADAYE
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Co-operation
of the Republic of Dahomey

Mr. Pierre Abelin
Minister for Co-operation
of the French Republic
