

No. 16677

**FRANCE
and
BENIN**

**Agreement on cultural co-operation. Signed at Cotonou on
27 February 1975**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 11 May 1978.

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et
BÉNIN**

**Accord de coopération culturelle. Signé à Cotonou le
27 février 1975**

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la France le 11 mai 1978.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOV-
ERNMENT 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:

TITLE I. CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO PRIMARY, SECONDARY
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Article I. At the request of the Government of the Republic of Dahomey, the Government of the French Republic shall assist the Government of the Republic of Dahomey in developing education in the territory of the Republic of Dahomey and in facilitating, in its own territory, the training of Dahomean nationals.

In this event, it shall take appropriate steps to place at the disposal of the Government of the Republic of Dahomey qualified teaching and inspection personnel in the various categories of education and training.

The methods whereby such personnel shall be made available, and also their duties, rights and guarantees, shall be governed by the provisions of the Agreement on technical co-operation in respect of personnel matters², subject to the provisions of this Agreement and those of the Agreement on co-operation in the field of higher education.

Article II. The Government of the Republic of Dahomey:

- Shall accord such personnel, as well as the personnel of inspectorates and of competitive and other examination boards, every facility in the accomplishment of their task,
- Shall accord every facility to the Government of the French Republic to establish and maintain educational establishments under its authority in the territory of the Republic of Dahomey, with due respect for the laws and regulations relating to public policy (*ordre public et bonnes mœurs*),
- Shall accord French nationals free access to its educational establishments, subject to its rules governing school and higher education.

Facilities of the same nature shall be accorded, on the same terms, by the French Republic to the Republic of Dahomey.

Article III. Physical or juridical persons who are nationals of the French Republic may set up or maintain educational establishments in the territory of the Republic of Dahomey, provided that they have obtained the prior authorization of the Government of the Republic of Dahomey under the same conditions as Dahomean nationals and comply with the laws and regulations of public policy in force in

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 XI.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1089, No. I-16685.

the Republic of Dahomey and provided that the teaching personnel have the necessary professional teaching qualifications.

The same provisions, subject to the same conditions, shall apply in the territory of the French Republic to physical or juridical persons who are nationals of the Republic of Dahomey.

Article IV. The French establishments referred to in articles II and III shall, with due respect for the laws and regulations relating to public policy, provide education in accordance with the timetable, working hours, curricula and methods of French education and leading to French diplomas.

They shall be subject to the same fiscal and parafiscal régime as is applied to the corresponding establishments of the Republic of Dahomey.

The same provisions shall apply, subject to the same conditions, to the Dahomean establishments referred to in articles II and III.

Article V. The French authorities may, after informing the Government of the Republic of Dahomey, organize in Dahomean territory competitive and other examinations for French nationals.

The Dahomean authorities may, subject to the same conditions, do likewise in French territory.

Article VI. In order to promote the training and advanced training of Dahomean students, teachers, technicians, research workers and specialists, and at the request of the Republic of Dahomey, the Government of the French Republic shall facilitate their entry to the *grandes écoles* and the higher technical schools of the French Republic. It shall also promote the organization, on the basis of agreements between the two Governments, of seminars and practical training programmes reserved especially for such persons.

In particular, Dahomean students who wish to teach and practising teachers who wish to obtain higher qualifications or to enter the corps of inspectors, may be called upon to complete their pedagogical training in the appropriate establishments of the French Republic, at the request of the Republic of Dahomey.

TITLE II. CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Article VII. The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Dahomey shall work together to promote the sciences, arts and literature and knowledge of their respective cultural heritage.

This co-operation shall also include, under conditions determined by agreement, the French Government's participation in the development of literary, scientific or artistic institutions, and vice versa.

Article VIII. The Contracting Parties shall encourage cultural exchanges between their countries and their nationals by every means at their disposal.

In particular, both Parties shall promote the establishment in their territory by the other Party of libraries, institutes and cultural centres with a view to making their culture and civilization better known to each other. Subject to the regulations in force in each country, they shall assist in the exchange of documents, equipment and experience in the field of books, publications, records, films and radio broadcasting.

Similarly, both Parties undertake to promote a knowledge of life in their respective countries by every possible means, in particular by organizing educational travel, courses, exchanges of teachers and young people, fellowships and by the use of audio-visual communications techniques.

Article IX. The nationals of each of the two States shall enjoy, in the territory of the other, freedom of thought and artistic expression to a degree consistent with respect for public policy.

The entry, circulation and dissemination of the means of expression of thought and art of each of the two countries shall be fully ensured, and as far as possible encouraged, in the territory of the other, subject to respect for public policy.

Facilities, including, in particular, complete exemption from customs duty, or fiscal or parafiscal dues, shall be granted in each of the two countries for the importation of books, films and records from the territory of the other Contracting Party for the purpose of cultural activities on the part of bodies or establishments recognized by the State.

Article X. The arrangements for the implementation of this Agreement on cultural co-operation shall be determined by the main commission provided for in article III of the General Agreement.¹

TITLE III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article XI. This Agreement replaces and abrogates the Agreement on cultural co-operation of 24 April 1961.² It is concluded for a period of two years renewable by tacit agreement. Notice of termination shall 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

¹ See p. 331 of this volume.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 811, p. 89.