

No. 22515

**NETHERLANDS
and
RWANDA**

**Agreement concerning the employment of Netherlands
volunteers in Rwanda. Signed at Kigali on 12 November
1980**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by the Netherlands on 17 December 1983.

**PAYS-BAS
et
RWANDA**

**Accord concernant l'emploi de volontaires néerlandais au
Rwanda. Signé à Kigali le 12 novembre 1980**

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par les Pays-Bas le 17 décembre 1983.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

**AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS AND
THE RWANDESE REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF
NETHERLANDS VOLUNTEERS IN RWANDA**

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the Rwandese Republic,

Desiring to strengthen understanding and friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries by means of exchanges of know-how and professional expertise,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. 1. If so agreed between the Rwandese Government and the Government of the Netherlands, the latter shall within the limits imposed by the availability of manpower, financial and material resources, send Netherlands volunteers to work in Rwanda on specific development projects selected for this purpose.

2. The Government of the Netherlands shall entrust the implementation of this Agreement to the Foundation of Netherlands Volunteers (hereinafter referred to as “the Foundation”).

3. The details of the implementation and administration of this Agreement shall be worked out between the Foundation and the authorities designated by the Government of the Rwandese Republic (hereinafter referred to as “the competent Rwandese authorities”).

4. The Foundation shall submit the curriculum vitae of Netherlands volunteers to the competent Rwandese authorities for their consideration and approval before the volunteers are sent to Rwanda.

Article 2. 1. The Rwandese Government shall afford volunteers all such assistance as they may reasonably require for the satisfactory performance of their duties.

2. During the period of their stay in Rwanda, volunteers shall be subject to the laws and regulations in force in that country.

3. Subject to prior consultation with and the agreement of the Rwandese Government, representatives of the Government of the Netherlands or the Foundation may review the progress of work on projects to which volunteers have been assigned.

Article 3. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of article 1 (2) of this Agreement, the Government of the Netherlands shall have the right to recall a volunteer after consulting with the competent authorities of the Rwandese Government.

Nevertheless, wherever possible, such recall must not impair the execution of the project to which the volunteer has been assigned.

2. The Rwandese Government shall have the right to request the Government of the Netherlands to recall a volunteer if his personal or professional conduct justifies such a measure. The Rwandese Government shall not, however, avail itself of this right without first having lodged a complaint with the competent representative of the Government of the Netherlands in Rwanda.

Article 4. The Government of the Netherlands shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the pre-assignment training of volunteers prior to their arrival in Rwanda;
- (b) Meet the costs of social insurance, salary and round-trip travel from the Netherlands to Rwanda and back for each volunteer;

¹ Came into force on 25 June 1982, the date of receipt of the last of the notifications by which the Parties informed each other of the completion of their respective constitutional formalities, in accordance with article 9 (1).

- (c) Provide volunteers with such personal and professional equipment, including motor vehicles, as it deems essential for each individual volunteer or for the team as a whole, to effectively execute the projects to which the volunteers have been assigned. This equipment shall remain the property of the Government of the Netherlands unless ownership is transferred to the Rwandese Government by mutual agreement.

Article 5. The Rwandese Government shall:

- (a) Exempt Netherlands volunteers from import and customs duties on new or used household and personal effects and professional equipment imported into Rwanda within six months of the arrival of the volunteers or of members of their family, provided that such goods are re-exported from Rwanda at the time of departure of the volunteers or within such period as may be agreed upon by the Rwandese Government;
- (b) Exempt from all import and export duties and other official charges equipment (including motor vehicles) and other goods supplied by the Government of the Netherlands or by the Foundation and intended for the execution of the agreed projects;
- (c) Exempt from all taxes and other fiscal charges all emoluments received by volunteers from sources in the Netherlands or to be remitted from overseas as payment for their services;
- (d) Make provision for volunteers to import a motor vehicle duty-free or purchase it from bond within six months of their arrival in Rwanda, on the understanding that such vehicle, if sold to a person not likewise privileged, shall be subject to payment of an appropriate import duty based on the estimated value of the vehicle at the time of sale;
- (e) Authorize for the conversion of funds from the Netherlands remuneration or emoluments at the most favourable exchange rate authorized by law, and authorize the Foundation itself to have a convertible account;
- (f) Issue volunteers with work and residence permits free of charge, whenever this is required for the execution of projects, and with identity documents guaranteeing them, in the performance of their duties, the full support of the Rwandese authorities;
- (g) Give volunteers authorization to enter or leave the country at any time, subject only to the provisions of the immigration laws in force in Rwanda, and offer volunteers and their families in Rwanda repatriation facilities in times of national or international crisis in so far as is reasonably possible in such circumstances;
- (h) Exempt volunteers from the payment of fees and other charges relating to visas, immigration and personal registration;
- (i) Exempt the volunteers or their family members from national service obligations;
- (j) Grant volunteers immunity from prosecution with respect to any acts done and any words spoken or written in their official capacity.

Article 6. The Rwandese Government shall provide volunteers with:

- (a) Free accommodation at the places where they are to perform their duties. The Government of the Netherlands shall take on this obligation if the Rwandese Government is unable to assume it;
- (b) Medical and dental facilities of the same standard as those provided to Rwandese Government officials of comparable rank.

Article 7. 1. The Government of the Rwandese Republic shall be liable, in lieu of a volunteer, for any damage caused by the latter to a third party in the course of the performance of a task assigned to him under this Agreement. In this connection, no claim shall be allowed against the volunteer.

2. No right to reimbursement, regardless of its judicial basis, shall be invoked by the Rwandese Republic against a volunteer, except in cases of fraud or gross negligence.

Article 8. The provisions of article 5 (*b*), or articles 6 and 7 of this Agreement shall apply equally to the resident representative of the Foundation in Rwanda and to his staff (non-volunteers).

Article 9. 1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date by which the Government of the Netherlands and the Rwandese Government have notified each other in writing that the constitutional formalities laid down in their respective countries have been fulfilled.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of three years and shall be tacitly renewed for similar periods unless one of the two Governments notifies the other in writing, at least six months prior to expiry of the current term, of its intention to terminate it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Kigali on 12 November 1980, in duplicate in the French language.

For the Government
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

J. B. VAN LOON

For the Government
of the Rwandese Republic:

F. NGARUKIYINTWALI
