

No. 30171

**FRANCE
and
MAURITANIA**

Agreement on assistance for the reintegration into the Mauritanian economy of workers who have emigrated to France. Signed at Nouakchott on 25 September 1986

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 3 August 1993.

**FRANCE
et
MAURITANIE**

Accord sur l'aide à la réinsertion dans l'économie mauritanienne des travailleurs ayant émigré en France. Signé à Nouakchott le 25 septembre 1986

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la France le 3 août 1993.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE RE-
INTEGRATION INTO THE MAURITANIAN ECONOMY OF
WORKERS WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO FRANCE

PREAMBLE

Considering the ties of friendship that exist between the two countries, the two Governments have agreed to collaborate closely to create favourable conditions for the voluntary return and reintegration of Mauritanian nationals who have emigrated to France.

TITLE 1. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 1

The purpose of this Agreement is, in an effort to further the development of the Mauritanian economy, to promote cooperation between France and Mauritania, with a view to helping to reintegrate Mauritanian workers who so wish into their country.

TITLE 2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Article 2

The measures provided for under this Agreement are intended solely for the benefit of nationals of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania who are at least 18 years of age and who can show proof that they are in possession of a valid permit authorizing them to engage in a salaried occupation in France.

However, individuals who are entitled to receive a work permit as a matter of course, owing to their personal circumstances, or to again receive residence permit for purposes of reuniting the family are not eligible to receive these benefits.

TITLE 3. ELEMENTS OF ASSISTANCE

Article 3

Mauritanian workers who meet the requirements for eligibility of this Agreement are entitled to benefit from French assistance for reintegration and, in particular, measures providing for possible financial assistance:

- To cover the fees that individuals who wish to return must pay for vocational training courses adapted to meet the needs of their reintegration,
- To purchase the equipment necessary to carry out their reintegration plans,

¹ Came into force on 1 January 1993, i.e., the first day of the second month following the date of receipt of the last of the notifications (of 27 April 1987 and 12 November 1992) by which the Parties had informed each other of the completion of the required constitutional procedures, in accordance with article 14.

- To cover their return travel and related moving expenses, as well as the return travel and related moving expenses of family members residing in France and returning with them.

The French Government shall ensure that Mauritanian workers benefit from these measures under the best possible conditions.

Both Parties promise to pursue their contacts in an effort to extend reintegration assistance benefits to:

- Mauritanian workers who have expressed a wish to leave their jobs voluntarily,
- Mauritanian workers who are unemployed.

Article 4

The two Parties shall define and implement vocational training courses for Mauritanian workers whether or not they hold employment contracts. The training offered shall be designed to enable Mauritanian nationals who choose to return to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to adapt, under favourable conditions, to such employment opportunities or economic activities as are offered to them under this Agreement.

TITLE 4. CUSTOMS AND TAX PRIVILEGES

Article 5

Each Government shall, as applicable, grant customs and tax privileges to Mauritanian workers who benefit under this Agreement in order to facilitate their reintegration.

Particular attention shall be paid to the import of vehicles and, in general, of goods which would permit the establishment of a small business enterprise in Mauritania.

The Mauritanian Government shall encourage the allocation of land for the establishment of enterprises. Moreover, it shall take measures to develop sites reserved for use by enterprises.

TITLE 5. PROCEDURES FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

Article 6

The assistance provided for in article 3 of this Agreement shall be paid either in France or in Mauritania in accordance with French regulations; benefits to cover transportation and moving expenses shall be paid before departure from France.

Article 7

Once the preliminary formalities for resettlement have been completed, the individual seeking reintegration and his spouse shall surrender their residence permits to the appropriate French authority.

In exchange, he shall receive a residence permit valid for two months or, where applicable, for the duration of the training course that he is to complete in France, plus an additional two-month period.

TITLE 6. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Article 8

With effect from the entry into force of this Agreement, Mauritanian nationals who are eligible to benefit from the financial assistance for reintegration provided for under French regulations shall be informed by the French authorities and, at their request, by the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in France, of employment opportunities and conditions in Mauritania so that they can plan how to carry out their reintegration plans and how to use French financial assistance.

To that end, the Mauritanian authorities shall periodically advise the French authorities of employment opportunities and the establishment of economic activities beneficial to the development of Mauritania by providing detailed information on development priorities, according to sector and geographical area, as well as on occupations and vacant posts.

The French authorities shall periodically advise the Mauritanian authorities of the number of requests filed and the number of persons receiving public assistance for reintegration, their breakdown by age, their professional qualifications, the nature of their reintegration plans and where these plans are to be implemented.

Article 9

The extent and nature of the vocational training courses mentioned in article 4 shall be determined by mutual agreement according to the employment opportunities identified under the above article.

Article 10

The Mauritanian authorities concerned and the competent service of the French National Immigration Office shall collaborate closely in order to help implement the reintegration plans of Mauritanian workers seeking to benefit from the assistance provided for under articles 3 and 4 of this Agreement.

Article 11

Nationals of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania who wish to return to their country should be informed as fully as possible of all opportunities offered under Franco-Mauritanian cooperation, as well as of their rights and obligations.

To that end, the French authorities shall ensure that Mauritanian nationals are provided with the relevant information by the competent services, in particular those of the National Immigration Office, regarding the rights which they may claim on their return, including information concerning financial assistance for reintegration and opportunities for vocational training under this Agreement with a view to their return to Mauritania.

The Mauritanian authorities shall periodically transmit to the French authorities information relating to Mauritanian legislation concerning reintegration and employment and any other information which may be useful to workers and members of their families with a view to their reintegration in Mauritania.

TITLE 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 12

A joint committee of experts shall be established to:

- Monitor the implementation of this Agreement;
- Examine, with a view to proposing satisfactory solutions, any problems which might arise in connection with the implementation of the measures provided for under this Agreement.

Article 13

This committee shall meet once a year and whenever necessary at the request of either Party.

TITLE 8. DURATION AND RENEWAL

Article 14

Each Party shall notify the other when it has completed the requisite constitutional procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date of receipt of the last such notification.

This Agreement is concluded for a period of two years and shall be automatically renewable. It may be subject to amendment or notification. It may be denounced by either Contracting Party, which shall give notice of such denunciation by the appropriate means at least three months in advance.

DONE at Nouakchott, on 25 September 1986.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

Mr. MICHEL AURILLAC
Minister for Cooperation

For the Government
of the Islamic Republic
of Mauritania:

[Signed]

Lt-Colonel AHMED OULD MINNIH
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation