

No. 32909

**LATVIA
and
UZBEKISTAN**

**Treaty of friendship and cooperation. Signed at Riga on
6 June 1995**

Authentic texts: Latvian, Uzbek and Russian.

Registered by Latvia on 27 June 1996.

**LETTONIE
et
OUBÉKISTAN**

Accord d'amitié et de coopération. Signé à Riga le 6 juin 1995

Textes authentiques : lettonien, ouzbek et russe.

Enregistré par la Lettonie le 27 juin 1996.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

TREATY¹ OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

The Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as the High Contracting Parties,

Being guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recognizing the primacy of the generally accepted rules of international law and universal values,

Confirming their aspiration to implement the commitments set forth in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and other instruments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,²

Welcoming the current historic changes in both States,

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Taking as a basis the friendly and mutually respectful relations established throughout history between their peoples,

In the belief that the further development of relations of mutually advantageous bilateral cooperation is in the fundamental interests of the peoples of both States and serves the cause of peace and security in Europe and Central Asia,

Being determined to establish their inter-State relations on the principles of equality, justice and mutual understanding,

With a view to imparting a new quality to their bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, scientific and technical, environmental, information, humanitarian, cultural and other fields and strengthening its legal basis,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The High Contracting Parties shall develop their relations as friendly States. They shall be guided in their mutual relations by the principles of sovereign equality, renunciation of the use of force or threat of force, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity, the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for human rights, the equality of peoples and their right to self-determination, mutually advantageous cooperation, and the performance of international obligations in good faith.

Article 2

The High Contracting Parties, in accordance with the obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the instruments of the Organization for Secu-

¹ Came into force on 23 May 1996 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Tashkent, in accordance with article 25.

² *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292; vol. XVII (1978), p. 414; vol. XXII (1983), p. 1395; vol. XXVIII (1989), p. 527; vol. XXIX, No. 4 (1990), p. 1054 (American Society of International Law); United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session*, document A/45/859, p. 3; and *International Legal Materials*, vol. XXXIV, No. 3 (1995), p. 764 (American Society of International Law).

rity and Cooperation in Europe, shall resolve any disputes that may arise between them exclusively by peaceful means. They shall never, in any circumstances, be the first to use their armed forces against one another.

Article 3

The High Contracting Parties affirming that universal security is indivisible and that it is indissolubly linked to the security of all States members of OSCE, shall consistently act in partnership in that area.

Article 4

The High Contracting Parties undertake not to allow their territory to be used by any party for the purpose of engaging in hostile activity against the other High Contracting Party.

Should one of the Parties be subject to an armed attack by one or more third States, the other Party shall not give support to such State or States and shall take all measures necessary for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the instruments of OSCE.

Article 5

Should situations arise that might, in the opinion of one of the High Contracting Parties, constitute a threat to peace or give rise to international tension, the Parties shall hold consultations on possible means of resolving such situations.

Article 6

The High Contracting Parties shall actively promote the process of disarmament, both nuclear and conventional, the further reduction in armed forces and arms, particularly in Europe and Asia, the strengthening of peace, confidence and security on a bilateral and multilateral basis, and the establishment of reliable structures for regional security.

Article 7

The High Contracting Parties shall expand their contacts and cooperation within international organizations.

Article 8

The High Contracting Parties, striving to provide the necessary conditions to bring the peoples of the two States closer together, shall use all means to promote the expansion of contacts between their nationals, and between their State organizations and voluntary organizations and self-management bodies.

Article 9

The High Contracting Parties shall devise and implement an agreed set of measures to simplify the arrival and departure formalities for nationals of the Parties travelling to each other's territory. To that end, the Parties shall conclude a separate agreement.

Article 10

The High Contracting Parties shall establish conditions conducive to the development of mutually beneficial bilateral economic cooperation. They shall take ap-

appropriate measures to improve the machinery of their economic and commercial relations and bring it closer to the standards and practice of the global market, *inter alia*, by according each other most-favoured-nation status, or national status, depending on which is more favourable, and shall also stimulate and protect reciprocal investments.

Guided by domestic legislation, acting on the basis of their international obligations, and with a view to attaining the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties shall ensure favourable economic, financial and legal conditions for entrepreneurial and other economic activity. They believe it is essential to conclude intergovernmental agreements in the fields of commerce and services, the taxation of income and property, customs, contra accounts and payments on the basis of freely convertible currencies, air communications and tourism.

Article 11

The High Contracting Parties shall develop and expand their cooperation in the field of transit and transport communications. Each of the Parties shall ensure the transport operations of the other Party through seaports and airports, the railway and road networks and pipelines situated in its territory on the conditions set forth in special agreements.

Article 12

The High Contracting Parties shall study the feasibility of improving the means, systems and lines of communication between them, and shall take measures to that end.

Article 13

The High Contracting Parties shall promote the establishment of conditions for effective cooperation in the field of fundamental and applied sciences, and for the development and introduction of advanced techniques and technology, and also for the support of direct links and joint initiatives between scientists, scientific research institutes and science-production associations. The Parties shall conclude special agreements on that matter.

Article 14

The High Contracting Parties shall develop relations in the field of education and shall encourage cooperation between different types of schools and higher educational establishments, in particular through the exchange of pupils, students, post-graduate research students and trainees.

The Parties shall seek to sign an agreement on the reciprocal recognition of secondary school and secondary vocational school leaving certificates, and of final diplomas of higher educational establishments, academic titles and degrees.

Article 15

The High Contracting Parties shall regard the expansion and deepening of bilateral cultural links not only as a natural requirement of their peoples but also as an essential condition for the enhancement of the worldwide cultural heritage. On that basis, the Parties shall promote broader exchanges between groups of creative artists and cultural workers, and shall ensure broad access to cultural objects,

archives, libraries and the mass information media for nationals of the other Party on an equal basis and on the same terms as for their own nationals.

Each of the Parties shall promote the preservation and study of the cultural and creative heritage of the other Party, including the protection of historical and cultural monuments.

Article 16

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate directly and through international organizations on matters relating to the protection of intellectual property rights.

Article 17

The High Contracting Parties, on the basis of their mutual interests and subject to their resources, shall develop cooperation in the field of the protection and improvement of the environment, the elimination of the effects of industrial accidents and natural disasters, careful wildlife management, the expansion of the sphere of environmentally sound products, and the implementation of highly effective measures for environmental conservation and restoration in Europe and Central Asia.

Article 18

The High Contracting Parties recognize the need for joint action to ensure the protection of public health and the development of medical science and practice.

The Parties shall ensure access to, and the equitable utilization of, the available special-purpose and specialized medical facilities, sanatoria and health resorts, and the provision of advisory assistance to the nationals of the other Party.

Article 19

The High Contracting Parties, in accordance with the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and other instruments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, declare their conviction that friendly relations between their peoples, together with peace, justice, stability and democracy, require the protection by the Parties of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of their national minorities, and they shall create all necessary conditions to provide such protection.

Article 20

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall ensure equal rights and freedoms for its nationals, irrespective of their nationality, sex, language, religious belief or political or other convictions.

Specific questions concerning citizenship and the protection of the rights of nationals resident in the territory of the other Party shall be regulated by separate agreements in accordance with the national legislation of the Parties and the generally recognized rules of international law.

Article 21

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in combating unlawful acts, including organized crime, corruption, terrorism, illegal and unlawful immigration, illicit financial transactions, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, chemical poisons, weapons and explosives, air and sea piracy and smuggling, including the illicit export of cultural property, and other unlawful acts. They shall exchange experience and operational information in that field and, in the

framework of international cooperation, shall take joint measures for that purpose. The Parties shall expand the scope of mutual legal assistance and cooperation, by concluding bilateral treaties and acceding to conventions and international agreements.

Article 22

The legal regulation of State property and of the property of bodies corporate and nationals of one Party in the territory of the other Party shall be governed by the rules of international law and the legislation of the High Contracting Parties.

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall ensure in its territory the protection of property rights in respect of property belonging to the other Party.

Article 23

This Treaty is not directed against any State and shall not affect the rights and obligations of the High Contracting Parties under any bilateral or multilateral treaty in force with third countries.

Article 24

The High Contracting Parties shall resolve any disputes connected with the interpretation or implementation of this Treaty, using the procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes set forth in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 25

This Treaty shall be concluded for a period of ten years. It shall be automatically renewed for successive periods of five years, unless one of the High Contracting Parties notifies the other Party to that effect no less than twelve months prior to the expiration of the current period of validity of its intention to denounce it.

This Treaty is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

Article 26

This Treaty shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

DONE at Riga, on 6 June 1995, in two copies, in the Latvian, Uzbek and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of any divergence in the interpretation of the provisions of this Treaty, the text in the Russian language shall be taken as a basis.

For the Republic
of Latvia:

GUNTIS ULMANIS
President of the Republic
of Latvia

VALDIS BIRKAVS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Latvia

For the Republic
of Uzbekistan:

ISLAM KARIMOV
President of the Republic
of Uzbekistan