

**No. 53959\***

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**South Africa  
and  
Benin**

**Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Benin on the establishment of a Joint Commission of Cooperation.  
Pretoria, 14 June 2015**

**Entry into force:** *14 June 2015 by signature, in accordance with article 11*

**Authentic texts:** *English and French*

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**Afrique du Sud  
et  
Bénin**

**Accord portant création de la Commission mixte de coopération entre le Gouvernement de la République d'Afrique du Sud et le Gouvernement de la République du Bénin.  
Pretoria, 14 juin 2015**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *14 juin 2015 par signature, conformément à l'article 11*

**Textes authentiques :** *anglais et français*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Afrique du Sud, 20 octobre 2016*

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[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

**OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

**OF BENIN**

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT**

**COMMISSION OF COOPERATION**

## **PREAMBLE**

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Benin (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties" and separately as "a Party");

**CONSCIOUS** of the bonds between both countries and of the necessity to promote security and cooperation in support of sustainable development in their respective countries as well as on the African continent in general;

**DESIROUS** of further enhancing the understanding, friendship, solidarity and promoting the well-being of the people of both countries;

**DESIROUS** of intensifying and enhancing cooperation between the various sectors of development in both countries;

**COMMITTED** to the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect and the rule of law;

**CONSIDERING** the Cooperation Agreement dated 29 October 2003 signed in Pretoria;

**HEREBY AGREE** as follows:

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSION OF COOPERATION**

The Parties shall establish a South Africa – Benin Joint Commission of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Commission").

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **PURPOSE OF THE JOINT COMMISSION**

The purpose of the Joint Commission shall be to:

- (a) promote and co-ordinate economic, social, scientific and technical co-operation;
- (b) promote trade and investment through the facilitation of contact in the commercial and industrial sectors of the two countries;
- (c) study and make recommendations on specific projects with the aim of effectively executing this agreement; and
- (d) analyse the development of cooperation between the Parties and find solution to problems which may arise.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF THE JOINT COMMISSION**

- 1) The Joint Commission shall consist of Senior Government representatives of the Parties, appointed in the various areas of cooperation or appointed as may be determined from time to time.
- 2) The Joint Commission shall meet alternatively in South Africa and Benin in ordinary and extraordinary sessions. Ordinary sessions shall be held every two years. Extraordinary sessions shall be held at the written request of either Party.
- 3) The Joint Commission shall be presided over by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and the Benin Diaspora Abroad of the Republic of Benin.
- 4) Sectoral Committees will be established by the Parties as and when deemed necessary.
- 5) Parastatal, private sector and civil sector representatives may be invited to participate in meetings of Sectoral Committees or in other structures established by those Committees.
- 6) Each Party shall determine the composition of its delegation to participate in Joint Commission sessions.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### **SUB-COMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUPS**

- 1) Each Sectoral Committee may set up ad hoc Sub-Committees or Working Groups to see to the smooth and proper implementation of the decisions and recommendations made by mutual consent by the Joint Commission.
- 2) The outcome of the deliberations of the ad hoc sub-committees or Working Groups shall through the relevant Sectoral Committees, be submitted to the Joint Commission for appraisal.
- 3) Sector-specific agreements may be signed between the Parties within the context of the Sectoral Committees.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

##### **AGENDA FOR MEETINGS**

- 1) The agenda of each meeting shall be agreed upon after an exchange of proposals by the Parties through the diplomatic channel at least one month prior to the opening of each session.
- 2) The agenda shall be agreed upon after an exchange of proposals by the plenary session of the Joint Commission.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

##### **RECORD OF DELIBERATIONS**

- 1) The outcome of the deliberations of each Sectoral Committee as well as other matters of importance to the Joint Commission shall be submitted to the Joint Commission in the plenary session for appraisal and record purposes.
- 2) The deliberations of the Joint Commission shall be sanctioned by a record signed by both Chairpersons.