

No. 55540*

**Cyprus
and
Egypt**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the protection and return of stolen or illicitly imported, exported, or transferred cultural property (with annexes). Nicosia, 3 March 2017

Entry into force: *2 June 2018, in accordance with article 8*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Cyprus, 13 December 2018*

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**Chypre
et
Égypte**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Chypre et le Gouvernement de la République arabe d'Égypte sur la protection et le retour des biens culturels volés ou illégalement importés, exportés ou transférés (avec annexes). Nicosie, 3 mars 2017

Entrée en vigueur : *2 juin 2018, conformément à l'article 8*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Chypre,
13 décembre 2018*

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT ON THE
PROTECTION AND RETURN OF STOLEN OR
ILLICITLY IMPORTED, EXPORTED, OR TRANSFERRED
CULTURAL PROPERTY**

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties")

DESIROUS to enhance their bilateral cooperation in the field of protection of cultural property;

CONSCIOUS of the seriousness of the offences relating to the theft and/ or illicit import and export of cultural property, and the importance of its protection, given, in particular, instances of looting of archaeological sites, monuments, museums and buried artifacts;

RECOGNIZING the fundamental importance of protecting and preserving their cultural property, in accordance with the principles and regulations established in the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Protecting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

CONVINCED that cooperation between them for the return of cultural property that has been stolen or illicitly removed from its country of origin is an effective method of protecting the right of each Party to recover such property in its capacity as original owner;

DESIRING to establish rules to return cultural property that is subjected to theft or illicit removal from its country of origin and to protect and preserve such cultural property;

ACKNOWLEDGING the unique and distinctive character of each State's respective cultural property;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term:

- (i) "Cultural property" means archaeological, artistic historical or paleontological property.
- (ii) "Cypriot cultural property" means property which is so designated according to the laws of the Republic of Cyprus (See Annex 1).
- (iii) "Egyptian cultural property" means property which is so designated according to the laws of the Arab Republic of Egypt (See Annex 2).

Article 2

The Parties commit to prohibit the entry of stolen or illicitly traded cultural property into their territory.

Article 3

- 1. Based on the request of either Party, the other Party shall take the appropriate legal steps to recover and return any cultural property found on its territory that has been the subject of theft, illicit import, export or transfer from its country of origin, in accordance with that Party's national legislation and the applicable international agreements in force.
- 2. Requests for the recovery and return of cultural property shall be made in writing through diplomatic channels.
- 3. All expenses for the recovery and return of the above-mentioned cultural property shall be borne by the requesting Party.

Article 4

The Parties Shall exchange the following information:

1. Each Party shall notify the other of the theft of cultural property and exchange information about the location of such property.
2. In the event of a police investigation being initiated by one Party with regard to stolen or illicitly imported, exported or transferred cultural property, the other Party shall, on request, provide every possible assistance, including help to identify the persons involved in the theft, illicit import, export, and/ or any other related criminal behavior.
3. In order to facilitate the identification process and the enforcement of protective measures, each Party shall provide their customs, police and other competent authorities all available information regarding stolen or illicitly transferred cultural property.

Article 5

In accordance with this Agreement each Party shall exempt from customs duties or any other taxes the cultural property which is to be returned to the other Party.

Article 6

Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by consultations between the Parties.

Article 7

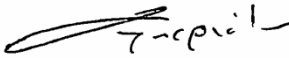
This Agreement may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Parties. The amendments shall enter into force in the same way described in Article 8 and shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 8

1. This Agreement shall enter into force 30 (thirty) days after the receipt of the last written notification through diplomatic channels, by which the Parties notify each other that their respective internal procedures for its entry into force have been completed.
2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a five-year period and it will, thereafter, be automatically extended for successive five-year periods unless either party gives to the other six (6) months' advance notice in writing of its intention to terminate it.

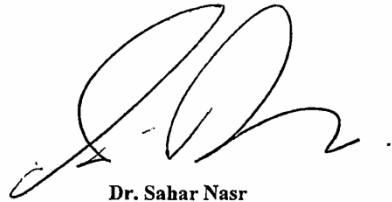
Done in duplicate in Nicosia Cyprus on 3rd of March 2017 in the English language, both texts being equally authoritative. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail

**For the Government of
The Republic of Cyprus**



Mr. Marios Demetriades
**Minister of Transport, Communications
and Works**

**For the Government of
The Arab Republic of Egypt**



Dr. Sahar Nasr
**Minister of Investment and International
Cooperation**