AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

ON CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

The Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, hereafter the "Contracting Parties",

CONVINCED that cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation is one of the most important components of bilateral relations as well as being an instrument that can ensure their stability;

CONSIDERING their mutual interest in strengthening the bonds of friendship that exist between the two countries;

WISHING to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation by developing cultural, scientific, and technological relations,

have hereby agreed as follows:

Article 1 Scope

This Agreement is intended to develop programmes and activities to foster better mutual understanding, to promote their respective cultural heritages and strengthen cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation between their two countries on the basis of equality and reciprocity. The Contracting Parties shall pursue these purposes by providing mutual support in compliance with current legislation, and in particular in compliance with their respective national legislation regarding immigration, and as far as Italy is concerned the provisions of the Schengen Treaty, and their obligations ensuing from the international Agreements and Conventions to which they are parties.

Mindful of the increasingly close integration taking place at both the European and the regional levels, the Contracting Parties shall also seek forms of cooperation in programmes promoted by the Italian Regions and by implementing multilateral programmes of the European Union.

Article 2 Areas of cooperation

The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the following areas: culture and arts; museums; libraries; safeguarding, enhancing and promoting each country's archive and documentary assets; university education and inter-university cooperation; science and technology; tourism; exchange of information and updated documentation on their educational systems.

Article 3 University education

The Contracting Parties shall develop exchanges of experience and know-how acquired in their universities through seminars, exchanges of lecturers, conferences, and specialisation courses in their academic establishments.

Article 4 School education

In the area of schools and education, the Contracting Parties shall cooperate in order to increase:

- a) exchanges of experiences concerning the teaching methods, materials and curricula used in each country's school systems;
- b) exchanges of teachers and experts, and of information on the institutions, organisations, and undertakings involved in education and vocational training, also for the purposes of improving teaching techniques and materials.

The Contracting Parties shall encourage cooperation between their public institutions with responsibility for addressing the youth issues, and initiatives of their respective associations, entities, and local organisations for the exchange of experiences on important issues of relevance to international cooperation in the field of education.

Article 5

Promotion of the language and literature

The Contracting Parties shall encourage initiatives to foster and disseminate the knowledge and teaching of their languages in the territory of the other Party.

To this end, each Party shall increase the study of the language and literature of the other Party in the universities and secondary schools by increasing the number of chairs and lectorships, and by experimentally instituting bilingual sections, on the basis of reciprocity.

The Contracting Parties shall also encourage the production and publication of Tajik-Italian and Italian-Tajik dictionaries.

Article 6 Scholarships

Within the bounds of their possibilities and on a reciprocal basis, the Contracting Parties shall provide citizens of the other Party with scholarships for students and teachers for university courses and research projects and/or periods of training in professional and handicraft sectors at universities or higher education establishments in subjects of specific interest to both Parties.

Article 7 Cultural and artistic cooperation

The Contracting Parties shall foster cultural and artistic cooperation and facilitate the establishment of joint relations between organisations, universities, research establishments and other public and private entities in each Country in areas of joint interest to the Parties, and in the following forms:

- a) joint implementation of studies, research projects, and training in agreed areas of culture;
- b) exchange of visits by technical and scientific personnel, and by personnel dealing on the visual and the performing arts, in order to increase exchanges and experiences in their respective fields of competence;
- c) joint organisation of conferences, seminars, exhibitions, performances and other cultural and artistic events.

Article 8

Cooperation to combat the illicit traffic in works of art

The Contracting Parties shall establish close cooperation to implement measures to prevent and combat the illicit traffic in works of art, cultural property, archaeological remains, documents and other objects of historical, artistic and demoethnoanthropological interest, and exchange of police intelligence aimed at combating criminal activities concerning the illegal trading of works of art.

The Contracting Parties, in accordance with their respective national legislation, shall act in compliance with the obligations of the UNESCO International Convention of 1970 on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property, and in compliance with the principles of the Unidroit Convention of 1995 on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

Article 9

Cooperation in the field of sports and youth

The Contracting Parties shall exchange information and experiences in the field of sport and youth through study visits, competitions, and other appropriate initiatives. Cooperation shall be encouraged between their public and private organisations concerned with youth issues, in order to foster exchanges of experiences and initiatives on matters of international importance.

Article 10 Cooperation in the field of the mass media

The Contracting Parties shall encourage cooperation between their public radio and television broadcasting systems, which may establish direct agreements between themselves.

Article 11

Scientific and technological cooperation

The Contracting Parties shall promote scientific and technological cooperation and facilitate relations between universities, research establishments and other public and private entities of both countries, in areas of common interest to the Parties, and in the following forms:

- ay jointly implemented studies, research projects, and educational schemes in agreed scientific areas;
- b) exchange of visits by scientific and technical personnel in order to conduct research projects and to increase exchanges of experiences;
- c) scientific activities at research institutions, universities, archives, libraries and museums belonging to the other Party, including joint research and field visits;
- d) jointly organised conferences, seminars and other scientific and technological events.

Article 12 Coordinating bodies

The national bodies responsible for coordinating the implementation of this Agreement shall be, for the Italian Party, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and for the Tajik Party, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Article 13

Technology transfer and the protection of intellectual property

Without jeopardy to intellectual property rights, the Contracting Parties shall encourage exchanges of technological information and joint scientific cooperation activities for the purposes of technology transfer.

Article 14 Joint Committee

To implement this Agreement, both Parties shall establish a Joint Committee to examine progress made in the field of cultural and scientific/technological cooperation and to implement multi-year Executive Programmes. This Committee shall meet alternatively in the capitals of both Parties on dates to be agreed through the diplomatic channels.

Article 15 Entry into force

This Agreement shall come into force on the date of receipt of the second of the two notifications by which the Contracting Parties will officially signify the completion of their internal ratification procedures.

Article 16 Amendments

This Agreement may be supplemented and modified with the consent of both Contracting Parties. Any supplements and amendments shall be formally agreed in specific Protocols which shall form an integral part of the Agreement and enter into force following the procedure established in Article 15 above.

Article 17

Commitments under other international agreements

This Agreement shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under other international agreements.

Article 18 Dispute settlement

Any disputes that may arise relating to the interpretation and application of this Agreement shall be resolved between the Contracting Parties by negotiation and through consultation.

Article 19 Duration and validity

This Agreement shall be of unlimited duration. It may be denounced, by notification, at any time by either of the Contracting Parties, in which case the denunciation shall become effective six months following the date of service of that notification.

In the event that this Agreement is denounced, all the programmes already begun and not yet completed shall continue until their conclusion, unless otherwise decided by both Contracting Parties.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

LAVORI PREPARATORI

Camera dei deputati (atto n. 2800):

Presentato dal Ministro degli affari esteri (Gentiloni) il 30 dicembre 2014.

Assegnato alla III commissione (affari esteri e comunitari), in sede referente, l'11 febbraio 2015 con pareri delle commissioni I, V, VII, X e questioni regionali.

Esaminato dalla III commissione, in sede referente, il 3 maggio e 14 giugno 2016.

Esaminato in aula il 5 luglio 2016 e approvato il 6 luglio 2016.

Senato della Repubblica (atto n. 2472):

Assegnato alla 3ª commissione (affari esteri, emigrazione), in sede referente, il 12 luglio 2016 con pareri delle commissioni 1ª, 5ª, 7ª e 10ª. Esaminato dalla 3ª commissione, in sede referente, il 3 agosto e 2 novembre 2016.

Esaminato in aula ed approvato definitivamente il 15 novembre 2016.

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