

M e m o r a n d u m o f U n d e r s t a n d i n g b e t w e e n

the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter “IPA CIS”) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (hereinafter “UNHCR”), hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Parties” and individually as the “Party”,

Recognizing the right of every person to seek asylum from persecution in other countries and to enjoy this as provided for in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948;

Recalling the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 31 January 1967;

Guided by the Convention on the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 26 May 1995 and the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of 14 December 1950;

Based on the Commonwealth of Independent States Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 26 May 1995, which provides for everyone’s right to a citizenship (article 24),

Noting the ongoing efforts for regional cooperation to address mixed migration and to safeguard refugee protection through regional inter-governmental consultative processes, in which the IPA CIS Member Nations participate;

Underlining the mutual interest of the Parties in establishing and maintaining long-term cooperation in the field of international protection and humanitarian assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR, in particular refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and other persons of concern as well as in addressing irregular mixed migration flows;

Hereby agree to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “Memorandum”).

PART 1. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish working, mutually beneficial relations between the Parties.

PART 2. FORMS OF COOPERATION

2.1 In order to implement the provisions of this Memorandum, the Parties agreed, based on available resources and opportunities, and within their authority, to use the following forms of cooperation:

- a. Providing expert support, advice and consultations in the development of model legislation and recommendations, conforming with international law on the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, standards, and relevant instruments relating to statelessness. Exchange of relevant information, experience and analytical results that are not confidential on a gratuitous basis;
- b. Planning, holding and/or joint participation of the Parties in seminars, conferences, exhibitions, round tables, programs and other events of mutual interest, as well as special events for the representatives of the Parties, by mutual agreement and in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable to each Party.

2.2. By mutual agreement of the Parties, other forms of cooperation can be developed in areas of mutual interest that are not inconsistent with the legislation of the IPA CIS Member Nations and international law standards.

PART 3. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

3.1. To coordinate the cooperation, the Parties agree to appoint the following entities as focal points:

for the IPA CIS – the IPA CIS Council Secretariat (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation),

for the UNHCR – the UNHCR country Office in the Russian Federation (Moscow, Russian Federation).

3.2. The Parties intend to hold meetings when feasible to discuss the results achieved in accordance with the objectives of this Memorandum and develop further measures for more complete and successful implementation.

PART 4. FINAL PROVISIONS

4.1. This Memorandum is not an international treaty and does not generate rights and obligations governed by international law. This Memorandum also does not entail any legal and financial obligations for either of the Parties.

4.2. The working languages used in the communications concerning the cooperation between the Parties under this Memorandum are Russian and English.

4.3. The terms of the participation of each Party in the implementation of joint projects and activities, including the costs incurred by each of the Parties, shall be agreed upon through separate arrangements.

4.4. This Memorandum comes into force on the date of its signature by the Parties and is valid for an indefinite period.

4.5. Parties may, by mutual written consent, make changes and additions to this Memorandum, subject to signing of a separate protocols hereto.

4.6. Each Party may notify its intention to terminate this Memorandum by giving 90 days prior written notice to the other Party.

4.7. Any issues, relating to the cooperation between the Parties, that are not reflected in this Memorandum are subject to separate discussion and agreement by the Parties.

4.8. Disputes arising between the Parties in connection with the interpretation or application of this Memorandum shall be settled amicably through mutual consultation and other means of dispute settlement agreed upon between the Parties hereto.

4.9. No provisions of this Memorandum shall be construed as expressly or purportedly renouncing any privileges or immunities of the Parties as defined by their statutory instruments or international law.

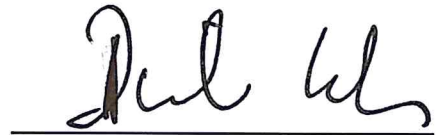
This Memorandum is done in St. Petersburg on 5 June 2019 in four copies (two copies in Russian language and two copies in English language), all texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY
OF MEMBER NATIONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF
INDEPENDENT STATES (IPA CIS)**



Dmitriy KOBITSKIY
Secretary General –
Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat

**FOR THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)**



Daniel ENDRES
Director,
UNHCR Global Refugee Forum