



AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
ON THE WAIVER OF VISA REQUIRMENTS
FOR
HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND
OFFICIAL/ SERVICE PASSPORTS

The Government of the Republic of Malta; and The Government of the Republic of Ghana; hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties” and separately as a “Party”,

DESIROUS to further promote the friendly relations existing between the Parties and wishing to further foster closer cooperation in matters of mutual interest;

MINDFUL of the existing relationship between the Parties in areas of mutual interest facilitating the movement of officials of both parties;

RECOGNISING the need to ensure smooth transit of citizens of the Parties holding Diplomatic and Official/Service passports through the borders of the Parties by exempting such citizens from visa requirements;

HEREBY AGREE as follows:

**ARTICLE 1
WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS**

- 1.1 Citizens of the country of either Party, holding valid Diplomatic and Official/Service biometric passports, and who are not accredited to the other Party, may enter into, exit from, transit through and stay in the territory of the other Party for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days (one or multiple entry) within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date of first entry, without having to obtain a visa;
- 1.2 When holders of such passports referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article intend to stay in the territory of the state of the other party for more than ninety (90) days, they shall comply with the procedure to obtain the necessary authorization to stay in the territory of the state of the other party, in advance and in conformity with the laws in force in the territory of that Party.

**ARTICLE 2
ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC STAFF**

- 2.1 Citizens of the country of a Party, assigned to work at the Diplomatic, Consular Mission or technical offices of these Missions or at International Organizations, who are holders of valid diplomatic and service passports as well as members of their immediate families holding similar passports shall not be required to obtain a visa to enter into, exit from, transit through or stay in the territory of the other party for the duration of their accreditation, provided they have complied with accreditation requirements of the other party within thirty days after their arrival.
- 2.2 Each Party shall notify the other Party in advance in writing through the diplomatic channel of the arrival of such Party's citizens who are holders of valid Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports including any member of their families holders of similar passports.

**ARTICLE 3
MOVEMENT CONTROL**

- 3.1 The entry into or exit from the territory of one Party by a citizen of a country of the other Party who is in possession of a valid Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports, shall take place through designated border-crossing points open for international traffic, and follow all necessary formalities in accordance with the immigration laws and regulations of that Party.

ARTICLE 4
COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL LAWS

- 4.1 This Agreement shall not exempt the citizens of either Party who are holders of valid Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports, including members of their immediate families accompanying them from complying with the national law in force in the respective territory of the Parties.

ARTICLE 5
ISSUING OF NEW DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT

- 5.1 Where passports falling within the scope of this agreement are reported lost, stolen or annulled in the territory of the other party;
- 5.1.1 The holder shall inform the relevant authorities in the host country thereof within twenty- four (24) hours; and
- 5.1.2 The holder shall be issued a new Diplomatic and Official/Service biometric passport or travel certificate or document where necessary, and the mission concerned shall inform the relevant authorities of the host country thereof.

ARTICLE 6
SUSPENSION

- 6.1 Each Party reserves the right to temporarily suspend this Agreement, completely or partially, for purposes of maintaining law and order or safeguarding public health and national security interests.
- 6.2 The suspension, together with the reasons thereof, shall be conveyed to the other Party in writing through diplomatic channel and shall take effect immediately upon receipt of that written notification by the other Party.
- 6.3 The suspending Party shall lift the suspension as soon the reason for the suspension ceases to exist, by way of written notification to the other Party through the diplomatic channel.

ARTICLE 7
REFUSAL OF ENTRY

- 7.1 Each party reserves the right to refuse the entry into or shorten the stay in its territory of a holder of valid Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports, whom it may consider undesirable for state security, public order or public health reasons.

ARTICLE 8
NOTIFICATION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENT

- 8.1 The Parties shall exchange, through the diplomatic channel, specimens of its Diplomatic and Official/Service biometric passports, including a detailed description of such document currently in use, at least thirty (30) days before the entry into force of this Agreement.
- 8.2 The Parties shall also keep each other informed of the introduction of new Diplomatic and Official/Service biometric passports, or the modification to existing passports. The Parties shall moreover transmit to the other Party, through diplomatic channel, specimens of its new or modified Diplomatic and Official/Service biometric passports including a detailed description of such documents, at least thirty (30) days before their entry into force.

ARTICLE 9
AMENDMENT

- 9.1 This Agreement may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent of the Parties and such amendment must be in writing, initialled, and communicated by exchange of note through diplomatic channel. Such amendments or supplemental agreements shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure provided in Article 11 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 10
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

- 10.1 Any difference or dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of the Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Parties.

ARTICLE 11
ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION

- 11.1 This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last exchanged notification between the Parties, through diplomatic channels, stating the completion of necessary national legal procedures for the coming into force of this Agreement.
- 11.2 This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period until terminated by either Party in accordance with Article 12.

**ARTICLE 12
TERMINATION**

12.1 This Agreement shall be deemed terminated ninety (90) days from the date of receipt of the last written notification through diplomatic channels, from a party of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed and sealed this Agreement.

Signed in Valletta, Malta on 26 March 2019, in two original copies in the English language.

On behalf of

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MALTA

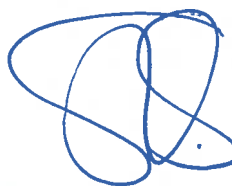


Carmelo Abela

Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Trade Promotion

On behalf of

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Regional Integration