

Egyptian / Sudanese Agreement on the Four Freedoms: unofficial translation

Official gazette – no. 37 of 9 September 2004

Agreement on freedom of movement, residence, work and property ownership between the government of the Arab Republic in Egypt and the government of the Republic of the Sudan.

In fulfilment of the wish of the two brotherly peoples of Egypt and Sudan and their aspirations for unity, progress and the formulation of a new way of life on the land of the valley of the Nile,

Based upon the instructions of the highest political leadership in the two countries at the summit meeting in Cairo on 18 January 2004 concerning the grant of freedoms in respect of movement, residence, work and property ownership to the citizens of the two countries, and

With a view to entrenching the ongoing strategic interdependence partnership as reflected in the decisions of the Joint High Committee,

The government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the government of the Republic of the Sudan have agreed to apply the principle of reciprocity in implementing the provisions of this agreement as set out below:

Paragraph 1: Explanatory note

For the purposes of this agreement the following words and expressions have the meaning set out below:

“Two countries” means the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of the Sudan.

“High Committee” means the Joint Egyptian Sudanese High Committee.

“Ministerial Committee” means the preparatory ministerial committee for the Egyptian Sudanese High Committee.

“Citizen” means any natural person belonging by nationality to one of the two territories.

Paragraph 2: Right of movement and residence

Residence, movement and entry and exit to or from either of the two countries shall be on the basis of a valid passport or other document or documents agreed by the two parties, within the territory of the two states or through the points of entry by land, sea or air officially recognised by the two countries.

Paragraph 3: Right to work and to own property

- (i) Citizens of either country shall enjoy the right to work and to practise professions or crafts or different forms of employment in the other country; international and Arab agreements to which the two countries are parties with regard to the matter shall continue to be respected.

- (ii) The two countries agree that their citizens shall enjoy the right to own and to derive benefit from land, real estate and moveable property and to dispose thereof, and to establish companies and partnerships, and to take the necessary legislative and executive measures to that end.

Paragraph 4: Guarantee of rights gained

Rights gained by any citizen of the two countries under this agreement shall not be affected in the event of the expiry for any reason of the agreement.

Paragraph 5: Implementing mechanism

A Joint Technical Committee shall be formed of concerned agencies in the two countries to meet regularly to undertake the following:

- (i) Review of the agreement and resolution of difficulties to which it has been exposed.
- (ii) Submission of regular reports, on a frequency to be agreed between the parties, to the Ministerial Committee, which will in turn submit them to the High Committee.
- (iii) Pursuit of any other related subjects as charged by the Ministerial Committee.

Paragraph 6: General provisions

Without prejudice to the provisions of this agreement, measures to protect health, security and public order shall be respected.

Paragraph 7: Amendment and entry into force

- (i) This agreement shall be amended in response to a written request from one of the parties and with the agreement of the other party; such amendment shall come into effect in accordance with the provisions set out in sub paragraph 3 of this paragraph.
- (ii) This agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be renewed automatically for a similar period or periods so long as neither of the two parties has given notice in writing of its wish to end the agreement three months before the period for which it is in force comes to an end.
- (iii) The provisions of this agreement shall take precedence over any legislative texts in force in the two countries, provisions of which conflict with the provisions of this agreement; and the agreement shall enter into force with effect from the 30th day after the exchange of documents of ratification.

This agreement has been signed in the city of Cairo in the Arab Republic of Egypt on 14 Safar 1425, corresponding to Sunday 4 April 2004 in two original Arabic copies both of which have legal force.

For the government of the
Arab Republic of Egypt
Ahmed Maher el Sayed
Foreign Minister

For the government of the
Republic of the Sudan
Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail
Foreign Minister

Decree of the Minister of Foreign Affairs no. 76 of 2004

The Foreign Minister,

Having seen the decision of HE the President of the Republic no.144 of 11 May 2004 concerning endorsement of the agreement on freedom of movement, residence, work and property ownership between the governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of the Sudan signed in Cairo on 4 April 2004, and the agreement of the Peoples Assembly thereto on 31 May 2004 and the confirmation thereof by HE the President of the Republic on 3 June 2004:

Has decided:

That the agreement on freedom of movement, residence, work and property ownership between the governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of the Sudan signed in Cairo on 4 April 2004 shall be published in the official gazette and shall enter in force with effect from 8 September 2004.

Given on 8 August 2004

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ahmed Aboul Gheit