

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of India on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passports

The Government of India and the Swiss Federal Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties"),

led by their common desire to facilitate travel between India and Switzerland (hereinafter referred to as the "States") for holders of diplomatic passports,

in the interest of strengthening mutual cooperation based on trust and solidarity,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1 SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1. Nationals of either State holding a valid national diplomatic passport may enter and stay for a period not exceeding 90 (ninety) days in any 180-day period or leave the territory of the other State without a visa, provided they do not take up any employment, be it self-employment or otherwise, in the other State.
2. When entering the territory of Switzerland after having transited through the territory of one or more States which fully apply the provisions of the Schengen Acquis concerning border crossing and visa, the date of the crossing of the external border limiting the area formed by the aforesaid States shall be considered as the first day of stay (not exceeding 90 days) on this area and the date of exit shall be considered as the last day of stay on this area.
3. Paragraph 1 of this Article does not apply to nationals of either State holding a valid national diplomatic passport who enter and stay in the territory of the other State for the duration of their assignment as members of a diplomatic mission, a consular post or a permanent mission of their respective State or as employees of an international organization.

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Article 2
COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION

1. Nationals of either State shall comply with the entry and stay regulations and the national legislation in force in the territory of the other State throughout the duration of their stay.
2. The passports specified in this Agreement shall meet the criteria of validity provided by the national legislation of the receiving State. Diplomatic passports of nationals of either State shall have validity for at least 6 (six) months on the date of entry into the territory of the other State.

Article 3
REFUSAL OF ENTRY

The competent authorities of either Contracting Party reserve the right to deny entry into or stay in the territory of their State to nationals of the other State as specified in Article 1 for reasons of protection of state security, public order, public health or other serious reasons.

Article 4
LOSS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT

If a national of either State loses his/her diplomatic passport in the territory of the other State, he/she shall inform the authorities concerned of the host country. The diplomatic Mission or Consulate concerned will issue a new passport or travel document to its national and inform the concerned authorities of the host State.

Article 5
NOTIFICATION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

1. The competent authorities of either Contracting Party shall exchange through diplomatic channels personalised specimens of their respective passports within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the signing of this Agreement.
2. In case of introduction of new diplomatic passport or modification of the existing ones, the Contracting Parties shall convey to each other, through diplomatic channels, personalised specimens of these new or modified passports together with all relevant information on their applicability, not later than 30 (thirty) days prior to their introduction date.

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Article 6
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall consult each other on any difficulties arising from the application or interpretation of this Agreement.
2. The Contracting Parties shall resolve through diplomatic channels any disputes arising from the application or interpretation of this Agreement.

Article 7
AMENDMENTS

Any amendment of this Agreement shall be agreed upon between the Contracting Parties through diplomatic channels. They shall enter into force 30 (thirty) days after the date of receipt of the last notification by which the Contracting Parties inform each other of the fulfilment of their relevant internal procedures.

Article 8
NON-AFFECTION CLAUSE

This Agreement shall not affect other obligations of the Contracting Parties arising under international agreements, in particular obligations arising from the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963.

Article 9
DURATION OF VALIDITY AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time. It shall enter into force 30 (thirty) days after receipt of the last written notification, by which the Contracting Parties inform each other on the fulfilment of their internal procedures.

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Article 10
SUSPENSION

Each Contracting Party reserves the right to suspend the provisions of this Agreement, in whole or in part, for reasons of protection of state security, public order, public health or other serious reasons. The decision on suspension shall be notified to other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels not later than 48 (forty-eight) hours before it takes effect. The suspension shall not affect the rights of nationals who have already entered the territory of the other State. The Contracting Party that has suspended the application of this Agreement shall immediately inform the other Contracting Party once the reasons for suspension no longer exist. The suspension shall be terminated on the date of receipt of this notification.

Article 4
TERMINATION

Each Contracting Party may, at any time, notify the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels of its decision to terminate this Agreement. The validity of this Agreement shall terminate 30 (thirty) days after receipt of the notification by the other Contracting Party. The termination shall not affect the rights of nationals who have already entered the territory of the other State

Done in New Delhi, on 06 October 2016, in two originals in the Hindi, German and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of differences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

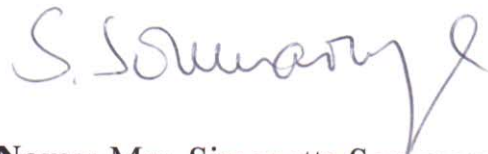
For the Government of India



Name: Shri Rajnath Singh

Designation: Home Minister
of India

For the Swiss Federal Council



Name: Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga

Designation: Federal Councillor
of Justice and Police