

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN

AND

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF
NEW BRUNSWICK**

Preamble

The Government of the Republic of Benin of the first part,

And

The Government of the Province of New Brunswick of the second part,

Below referred to as the **"Parties"** or **"Party"**.

Building on the bonds of friendship and cooperation between New Brunswick and Benin;

Recognizing their common attachment to the values of freedom, democracy, justice, and solidarity;

Desiring to establish a formal framework for closer cooperation between Benin and New Brunswick in areas of common interest, particularly in the sectors of education, the economy, trade, industry, science, technology, culture and tourism;

Convinced of the benefits of such cooperation which is of mutual interest to both Parties and the well-being of their populations;

The parties agree as follows:

Article 1: Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation is to define the general framework of cooperation that the Parties intend to establish between them with a view to achieving their common priority objectives.

Article 2: Sectors of interest

The two Parties agree to cooperate with a view to contributing to the effective achievement of their common objectives, inter alia, in the following areas of intervention:

- a) Economic, social, and human development;
- b) Environment;
- c) Trade and industry;
- d) Science and new technologies;
- e) Education and training;
- f) Culture and tourism.

Article 3: Commitments of the parties

The Parties undertake to:

- establish a permanent dialogue to work on collaborative issues of mutual interest;
- jointly carry out all actions that may contribute to the effective implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- make their human, financial, technical, and material resources available to the partnership in order to achieve their objectives;
- comply with, as much as possible, the terms and time frames set for the actions and projects to be carried out under this agreement.

Article 4: Application of cooperation

The Parties shall use negotiation and all means that they deem appropriate to achieve their objectives, including project-specific subsidiary agreements.

In implementing this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties agree to develop and carry out joint projects and programs.

The design and implementation of such projects shall be subject to specific arrangements, determined jointly by the competent structures of the two Parties, defining the practical, technical, and financial procedures for the participation of each Party.

Article 5: Consultation between parties

The two Parties shall, whenever desirable and useful, consult on matters of common interest, in particular those related to the areas of cooperation set out in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 6: Establishment of a Mixed Cooperation Commission

In order to promote such consultations, the Parties have decided to establish a Benin-New Brunswick Mixed Cooperation Commission. This Commission is composed of members from each of the two Parties.

Article 7: Meetings of the Mixed Cooperation Commission

The Benin-New Brunswick Mixed Cooperation Commission meets virtually at least once a year and physically once every 3 years alternatively in New Brunswick and Benin.

Article 8: Responsibilities of the Mixed Cooperation Commission

The Mixed Cooperation Commission is responsible for:

- take the necessary measures to strengthen the political dialogue between Benin and New Brunswick;
- take stock of cooperation matters between Benin and New Brunswick;
- identify projects to be included in the cooperation portfolio between Benin and New Brunswick;
- determine the resources required for each of the Parties and other funding sources to ensure the effective implementation of the said projects;
- assess the economic spinoffs for the two Parties;

- make recommendations for the efficient implementation of the projects;
- review all other matters relating to the application and interpretation of this agreement.

Article 9: Implementing authorities

The Parties shall designate the following structures as responsible for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding:

- For the Government of the Republic of Benin the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- For the Province of New Brunswick the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Article 10: Amendment of agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended upon formal referral by either Party and by mutual agreement. The amendments shall come into force automatically on the date of receipt of notification of consent from each Party.

Article 11: Dispute resolution

Any dispute that comes from the application or interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled by negotiation.

Article 12: Coming into force, duration, termination of agreement

This Memorandum is entered into for a duration of five years as of the date of its signature, renewable by tacit of reconduction.

This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party by means of a written notification addressed to the other party. The termination will take effect (6) months after the date of receipt of the notification.

Where appropriate, the Parties shall take the necessary measures to ensure the completion of ongoing projects and programs jointly undertaken under this Agreement.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN

FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Aurélien A. AGBENONCI
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Cotonou, on the _____

The Honourable Glen Savoie
Minister responsible for La Francophonie
Fredericton, on the _____