

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ON
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

PREAMBLE:

The Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

RECALLING the Agreement on immigration matters between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of 9 January, 2003;

CONSCIOUS of the International Instruments in the field of migration to which the Parties are Signatories and other related International Instruments;

REFERRING to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees of 28 July, 1951, as amended by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees on 31 January, 1967;

TAKING COGNIZANCE of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime of 15 November, 2000, its Protocols on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;

DETERMINED on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, to deepen and expand their dialogue and cooperation in the field of migration, identify opportunities offered therein and find constructive solutions to the challenges of global migration;

DESIRING to improve cooperation between the Parties with the aim of better implementation of the provisions relating to the migration of persons and respect for and guarantee of their fundamental rights in conformity with the national legislation in force in each State;

REAFFIRMING their common concern to effectively combat irregular migration particularly, trafficking and smuggling of persons;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

OBJECTIVE

The Parties shall have regular dialogue to enhance their cooperation in the field of migration.

ARTICLE II

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The areas of cooperation shall be as follows:

- Fight against smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings and drugs;
- Capacity building in immigration administration;
- Return assistance;
- Readmission and reintegration;
- Prevention of irregular migration;
- Migration and development (including remittances, Diaspora, brain drain and gain);
- Assistance to enable identification;
- Promotion and protection of human rights;
- Document fraud detection;
- Border management and control;
- Regular migration (including visa issues, consular matters, capacity building and exchanges in the field of education and training); and
- Other areas concerning movement of persons within the territory of either Party

ARTICLE III

COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

1. The Swiss Federal Council hereby designates the Federal Office for Migration and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria hereby designates the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the respective competent authorities for the purpose of implementing this MOU and any other matter related thereto.

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ARTICLE IV

ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. A Joint Technical Committee is hereby established to coordinate and implement the provisions of this MOU;
2. The committee shall comprise of technical experts of both Parties and shall meet twice a year alternately in Switzerland and Nigeria.
3. The committee shall draft its rules of procedure.

ARTICLE V

ENTRY INTO FORCE

This MOU shall enter into force upon signature by the Parties.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENT

Any amendment to or revision of this MOU shall be in writing and by the mutual consent of the Parties.

ARTICLE VII

DURATION AND TERMINATION

This MOU has been concluded for an unlimited period of time. Each Party may at any time denounce this MOU by written notification to the other Party through diplomatic channels. In such a case the MOU shall cease to be in force 90 (ninety) days after the other Party has received the notification thereof.

Done in duplicate in Berne on 14 February 2011.

For the Swiss Federal Council



For the Government of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria

