

## **AGREEMENT ON IMPORTATION OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL MATERIALS**

Note: The Agreement was concurred in by the Senate, S.R, No. 7, May 2, 1952. The Philippine instrument of ratification was signed by the President, August 2, 1952 and was deposited with the UN, August 30, 1952. It entered into force May 21, 1952 and with respect to the Philippines, August 30, 1952. It was proclaimed by the president, Proc. No. 200, S. 1955.

Reference: This Agreement Is also published in II DFA TS No. 2, p. 64 and 131 UNTS P 25. The Presidential proclamation of the Agreement Is published In 51 O.G., p, 4932 (Oct. 1955).

### **P R E A M B L E**

The contracting States,

CONSIDERING that the free exchange of ideas and knowledge and, in general, the widest possible dissemination of the diverse forms of self-expression used by civilizations are vitally important both for intellectual progress and international understanding, and consequently for the maintenance of world peace;

CONSIDERING that this interchange is accomplished primarily by means of books, publications and educational, scientific and cultural materials;

CONSIDERING that the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization urges co-operation between nations in all branches of intellectual activity, including "the exchange of publications, objects of artistic and scientific interest and other materials of information" and provides further that the Organization shall "collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, through all means of mass communication and to that end recommend such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image";

RECOGNIZE that these aims will be effectively furthered by an international agreement facilitating the free flow of books, publications and educational, scientific and cultural materials; and

HAVE, therefore, AGREED to the following provisions:

### **ARTICLE I**

1. The contracting States undertake not to apply customs duties or other charges on, or in connection with, the importation of:

(a) Books, publications and documents, listed in annex A to this Agreement;

(b) Educational, scientific and cultural materials, listed in annexes B, C, D and E to this Agreement; which are the products of another contracting State, subject to the conditions laid down in those annexes.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall not prevent any contracting State from levying on imported materials:

(a) Internal taxes or any other internal charges of any kind, imposed at the time of importation or subsequently, not exceeding those applied directly or indirectly to like domestic products;

(b) Fees and charges, other than customs duties, imposed by governmental authorities on, or in connection with, importation, limited in amount to the approximate cost of the services rendered, and representing neither an indirect protection to domestic products nor a taxation of imports for revenue purposes

## **ARTICLE II**

1. The contracting States undertake to grant the necessary licenses and/or foreign exchange for the importation of the following articles:

(a) Books and publications consigned to public libraries and collections and to the libraries and collections of public educational, research or cultural institutions;

(b) Official government publications, that is, official, parliamentary and administrative documents published in their country of origin;

(c) Books and publications of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies;

{d) Books and publications received by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and distributed free of charge by it or under its supervision;

(e) Publications intended to promote tourist travel outside the country of importation, sent and distributed free of charge;

(f) Articles for the blind:

(i) Books, publications and documents of all kinds in raised characters for the blind;

(ii) Other articles specially designed for the educational, scientific or cultural advancement of the blind, which are imported directly by institutions or organizations concerned with the welfare of the blind, approved by the competent authorities of the importing country for the purpose of duty-free entry of these types of articles.

2. The contracting States which at any time apply quantitative restrictions and exchange control measures undertake to grant, as far as possible, foreign exchange and licenses necessary for the importation of other educational, scientific or cultural materials, and particularly the materials referred to in the annexes to this agreement.

## **ARTICLE III**

1. The contracting States undertake to give every possible facility to the importation of educational, scientific or cultural materials, which are imported exclusively for showing at a public exhibition approved by the competent authorities of the importing country and for subsequent re-exportation. These facilities shall include the granting of the necessary licenses and exemption from customs duties and

internal taxes and charges of all kinds payable on importation, other than fees and charges corresponding to the approximate cost of services rendered.

2. Nothing in this article shall prevent the authorities of an importing country from taking such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the materials in question shall be re-exported at the close of their exhibition.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

The contracting States undertake that they will as far as possible:

(a) Continue their common efforts to promote by every means the free circulation of educational, scientific or cultural materials, and abolish or reduce any restrictions to that free circulation which are not referred to in this Agreement;

(b) Simplify the administrative procedure governing the importation of educational, scientific or cultural materials;

(c) Facilitate the expeditious and safe customs clearance of educational, scientific or cultural materials.

#### **ARTICLE V**

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the right of contracting States to take measures, in conformity with their legislation, to prohibit or limit the importation, or the circulation after importation, of articles on grounds relating directly to national security, public order or public morals.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

This agreement shall not modify or affect the laws and regulations of any contracting State or any of its international treaties, conventions, agreements or proclamations, with respect to copyright, trademarks or patents.

#### **ARTICLE VII**

Subject to the provisions of any previous conventions to which the contracting States may have subscribe for the settlement of disputes, the contracting States undertake to have recourse to negotiations or conciliation, with a view to settlement of any disputes regarding the interpretation or the application of this Agreement.

#### **ARTICLE VIII**

In case of a dispute between contracting States relating to the educational, scientific or cultural character of imported materials, the interested Parties may, by common agreement, refer it to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for an advisory opinion.

#### **ARTICLE IX**

1. This Agreement, of which the English and French texts are equally authentic, shall bear today's date and remain open for signature by all Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, all Member States of the United Nations and any non-member State to which an invitation may have been addressed by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

2. The Agreement shall be ratified on behalf of the signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedure.

3. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### **ARTICLE X**

The States referred to in paragraph 1 of Article IX may accept this Agreement from 22 November 1950. Acceptance shall become effective on the deposit of a formal instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### **ARTICLE XI**

This Agreement shall come into force on the date on which the Secretary-General of the United Nations receives instruments of ratification or acceptance from ten States.

#### **ARTICLE XII**

1. The States Parties to this Agreement on the date of its coming into force shall each take all the necessary measures for its fully effective operation within a period of six months after that date.

2. For States which may deposit their instruments of ratification or acceptance after the date of the Agreement coming into force, these measures shall be taken within a period of three months from the date of deposit.

3. Within one month of the expiration of the periods mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, the contracting States to this Agreement shall submit a report to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization of the measures which they have taken for such fully effective operation.

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization shall transmit this report to all signatory States to this Agreement and to the International Trade Organization (provisionally, to its Interim Commission).

#### **ARTICLE XIII**

Any contracting State may, at the time of signature or the deposit of its instrument of ratification or acceptance, or at any time thereafter, declare by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that this Agreement shall extend to all or any of the territories for the conduct of whose foreign relations that contracting State is responsible.

#### **ARTICLE XIV**

1. Two years after the date of the coming into the force of this Agreement, any contracting State may, on its own behalf or on behalf of any of the territories for the conduct of whose foreign relations that contracting State is responsible, denounce this Agreement by an instrument in writing deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. The denunciation shall take effect one year after the receipt of the instrument of denunciation.