

**No. 47040**

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**Switzerland  
and  
Russian Federation**

**Agreement between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters on cooperation in the field of humanitarian rapid response to natural and man-made disasters and international development cooperation. Bern, 21 September 2009**

**Entry into force:** *21 September 2009 by signature, in accordance with article 5*

**Authentic texts:** *English and Russian*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Switzerland, 13 January 2010*

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**Suisse  
et  
Fédération de Russie**

**Accord entre la Direction suisse du développement et de la coopération et le Ministère de la Fédération de Russie pour la défense civile, les urgences et l'élimination des conséquences des catastrophes naturelles en matière d'intervention rapide humanitaire face aux catastrophes naturelles et causées par l'homme et en matière de coopération internationale au développement. Berne, 21 septembre 2009**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *21 septembre 2009 par signature, conformément à l'article 5*

**Textes authentiques :** *anglais et russe*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Suisse, 13 janvier 2010*

[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

## **AGREEMENT**

**Between**

**The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**

**And**

**The Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence,  
Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of  
Natural Disasters**

**On cooperation in the field of humanitarian rapid response to natural and  
man-made disasters and international development cooperation**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia), hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Given the long standing and diversified history of successful cooperation between the Parties,

Referring to the Agreement between the Federal Council of Switzerland and the Government of the USSR on cooperation in the event of natural and large-scale man-made disasters of 1 December 1990,

Taking into account that Switzerland and the Russian Federation are parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recognizing the need for systematic, reliable and mutually beneficial cooperation between both Parties in order to achieve the objectives of the current Agreement, Recognizing the need for enhancing cooperation between both countries as well as on a multilateral base and for supporting projects and initiatives under the auspices of the specialized agencies of the UN System, the International Civil Defence Organisation, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

Taking into account the increase in the number of natural and man-made disasters as well as the emergence of new challenges and risks,

Have agreed as follows:

### **Article 1. Objectives of the Agreement**

1. The objective of the present Agreement is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of international rapid response to natural calamities or man-made disasters.

2. The Parties undertake all possible measures to develop the interactions with the United Nations, and other humanitarian agencies and organisations. They strengthen the collaboration with relevant governmental structures of countries in need of emergency response to natural and man-made disasters as well as international development cooperation.
3. The Parties implement mutual exchange of experience in the field of emergency response to natural calamities or man-made disasters, reconstruction and international development cooperation. The Parties give particular emphasis to exchanging experience in the fields of mountain rescue and – in accordance with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) guidelines – urban search and rescue.

## Article 2. Mutual Obligations

1. The Parties shall establish a bi-national board in order to regulate the exchange of information on the progress of activities implemented under this Agreement. The Parties shall regularly exchange views and hold joint consultations in order to discuss and evaluate joint activities in the field of humanitarian emergency response to natural and man-made disasters and to take the appropriate measures to increase their efficiency. As a general rule, each one of the Parties covers its own costs. In particular, they provide transportation and accommodation of their own personnel for trips under the present Agreement.
2. The Parties shall, in accordance with their national legislations, support the visa procedure of each other's nationals who plan to visit the Swiss Confederation or the Russian Federation with the goal of honouring the obligations deriving from the present Agreement.
3. In case of need, the Parties shall give all possible support and due protection to SDC or EMERCOM of Russia staff members working in Switzerland, the Russian Federation or other countries within the framework of their competencies for the implementation of the present Agreement.

## Article 3. Planned Activities

The Parties shall undertake the following activities in order to reach the objectives of the present Agreement:

1. To jointly organise conferences on the territories of their respective states with the participation of the main partners in the field of international emergency response to natural or man-made disasters and international development cooperation, including corresponding national agencies.

2. To organize exchange of information, experience, technology, and methodology in the field of training of personnel of rescue services.
3. To continuously exchange – by means of the bi-national board mentioned in Article 2 §1 of the present Agreement – information on the possibilities for rendering support in the case of humanitarian emergency response operation on the territory of the Parties' respective states as well as in third countries.
4. To facilitate the realization of seminars with the goal of exchange of experience in the field of mountain and urban rescue alternating in Switzerland and the Russian Federation.
5. To implement on a case to case basis joint trainings of rescue units.
6. To approve – by means of the bi-national board mentioned in Article 2 §1 of the present Agreement – plans of cooperation between the Parties for the period of two years and to discuss the results of their implementation.

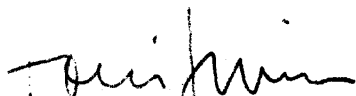
#### Article 4. Modifications of the Agreement and Settlement of Disputes

1. Any modifications and additions to the present Agreement shall be made by means of additional protocols, which enter into force according to the stipulations laid out in Article 5 of the present Agreement, with the consent of both Parties.
2. Disputes arising from the implementation of the present Agreement shall be settled through negotiation and consultation.

#### Article 5. Final Provisions

1. The present Agreement shall also be applicable to the Parties' activities on their respective states' territories which started prior to the entry into force of the present Agreement.
2. The present Agreement does not affect the Parties' rights and obligations under other international treaties to which Switzerland and the Russian Federation are parties.
3. The present Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and remains in force for four years. It is then automatically renewed for four year periods if neither of the Parties gives written notice to the other Party about an intended termination no later than three months prior to the expiration of the corresponding period.

Done in Bern this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2009, in two original copies, both of them in English and Russian. The texts in either language have equal force.



For the Swiss Agency for  
Development and Cooperation

For the Ministry of the Russian  
Federation for Civil Defence,  
Emergencies and Elimination of  
Consequences of Natural Disasters

