

**No. 48010**

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**Switzerland  
and  
South Africa**

**Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of South Africa regarding the waiver of visa requirements for holders of valid diplomatic, official or service passports. Cape Town, 3 June 2010**

**Entry into force:** *1 September 2010, in accordance with article 12*

**Authentic texts:** *English and German*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Switzerland, 14 December 2010*

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**Suisse  
et  
Afrique du Sud**

**Accord entre le Conseil fédéral suisse et le Gouvernement de la République d'Afrique du Sud relatif à la suppression de l'obligation de visa pour les titulaires d'un passeport diplomatique, officiel ou de service valable. Le Cap, 3 juin 2010**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2010, conformément à l'article 12*

**Textes authentiques :** *anglais et allemand*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Suisse, 14 décembre 2010*

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**REGARDING**

**THE WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS**

**FOR HOLDERS OF VALID**

**DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL OR SERVICE**

**PASSPORTS**

## **PREAMBLE**

The Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties" and separately as a "Party");

**CONSIDERING** it in the interest of both countries to strengthen their friendly relations;  
and

**DESIRING** to facilitate the entry of nationals of the Republic of South Africa and the nationals of the Swiss Confederation, who are the holders of valid diplomatic, official or service passports, into their respective countries without having to obtain a visa;

**HEREBY AGREE** as follows:

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **COMPETENT AUTHORITIES**

The Competent Authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement shall be—

- (a) on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council, the Federal Department of Justice and Police; and
- (b) on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Department of Home Affairs.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR STAFF**

- (1) Nationals of the country of a Party who are holders of valid diplomatic, official or service passports, who are members of the staff of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post of their respective countries or who travel to the country of the other Party as representatives of their country to an international organization, may enter the territory of the other Party and stay there for the duration of their assignment without a visa. The sending Party shall notify the receiving Party in advance through the diplomatic channels on the posting and function of the aforementioned persons.
- (2) The persons specified under sub-Article (1) shall receive an accreditation card or an identification card from the receiving Party.
- (3) The conditions specified under sub-Articles (1) and (2) are also valid for their family members, insofar as they live in the same household and are recognized by the receiving Party as family members entitled to stay with the person specified in sub-Article (1) and hold a valid diplomatic, official or service passport.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES AND OFFICIAL VISITS**

- (1) Nationals of the Swiss Confederation holding a valid diplomatic, official or service passport who are neither members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post nor representatives of their country to an international organization may enter into, transit through and stay in the territory of the Republic of South Africa without a visa for a maximum period of ninety (90) days from the date of entry provided they do not take up employment, be it self-employment or otherwise, in the Republic of South Africa.

- (2) Nationals of the Republic of South Africa holding a valid diplomatic, official or service passport who are neither members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post nor representatives of their country to an international organization may enter into, transit through and stay in the territory of the Swiss Confederation without a visa for a maximum period of ninety (90) days from the date of entry during the period of one hundred and eighty (180) days.
- (3) Nationals of either country of the Parties as specified in sub-Articles (1) and (2) who intend to stay in the territory of the country of the other Party for a period exceeding ninety (90) days are required to obtain a visa in advance. The visa shall be issued free of charge by the Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post of the country concerned.
- (4) When entering the territory of Switzerland after transiting through the territory of one or more countries to which the provisions are fully applicable concerning the waiver of internal border controls and of restrictions on the movement of persons, as set out in the Schengen Acquis, the ninety (90) days shall become effective as of the date of crossing the external border limiting the free movement area formed by the aforesaid countries.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### **REFUSAL OF ENTRY AND ISSUING OF NEW PASSPORT**

- (1) The Competent Authorities of either Party reserve the right to deny entry into or shorten the stay in the territory of its country, on a discretionary basis, to nationals of the other Party who are holders of valid diplomatic, official or service passports and who are deemed by the Competent Authorities to be undesirable.
- (2) If a national of the country of one Party loses his or her passport in the territory of the country of the other Party, he or she shall inform the relevant authorities in the