

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL
ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION
FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Swiss Federal Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties"),
led by their common desire to facilitate travel between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland (hereinafter referred to as the "States")
for holders of diplomatic passports,
in the interest of strengthening mutual cooperation based on trust
and solidarity.
have agreed as follows:

Article 1

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR STAFF

1. Nationals of either State holding a valid national diplomatic passport who are members of a diplomatic mission, a consular post or a permanent mission of their respective State to an organization with which a Headquarters Agreement has been concluded, may enter the territory of the other State and stay there for the duration of their assignment or leave this territory without a visa. The sending State shall notify the

receiving State in advance through diplomatic channels on the posting and function of the aforementioned persons.

2. The accompanying spouse and minor children of the persons specified in paragraph 1 who are nationals of the sending State and hold a valid national diplomatic passport shall benefit from the same facilities insofar as they live in the same household with the person specified in paragraph 1.

Article 2

OTHER REASONS FOR TRAVELLING

1. Nationals of Switzerland holding a valid national diplomatic passport who are not referred to in Article 1 paragraph 1, may enter and stay in the People's Republic of China for a period not exceeding 90 (ninety) days in any 180-day period or leave the territory of the People's Republic of China without a visa. If they intend to reside, engage in work, study, news reports or other activities which shall be approved in advance by the authorities of the People's Republic of China, they need a visa for entering the territory of the People's Republic of China.

2. Nationals of the People's Republic of China holding a valid national diplomatic passport who are not referred to in Article 1 paragraph 1, may enter and stay in Switzerland for a period not exceeding 90 (ninety) days in any 180-day period or leave the territory of Switzerland without a visa, providing they do not take up any employment, be it self-employment or otherwise, in Switzerland.

3. When entering the territory of Switzerland after having transited

through the territory of one or more States which fully apply the provisions of the Schengen Acquis concerning border crossing and visa, the date of the crossing of the external border limiting the area formed by the aforesaid States shall be considered as the first day of stay (not exceeding 90 days) in this area and the date of exit shall be considered as the last day of stay in this area.

Article 3

PORTS FOR ENTRY

Nationals of Switzerland referred to in Articles 1 and 2 shall enter into, exit from or transit through the territory of the People's Republic of China through ports open to foreigners. Those nationals benefiting from the exemption set out in this Agreement shall comply with the applicable formalities required by the relevant Chinese legislation.

Article 4

COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION

1. Nationals of either State shall comply with the entry and stay regulations and the national legislation in force in the territory of the other State throughout the duration of their stay.

2. The passports specified in this Agreement shall meet the criteria of validity provided by the national legislation of the receiving State.

Article 5

HIGH OFFICIALS' VISIT

Officials at or above vice ministerial level of the central government and officers of or above the rank of major general of the armed forces of either State holding a valid national diplomatic passport shall inform the competent authorities of the other State through diplomatic channels before they travel to the latter's territory for official purposes.

Article 6

REFUSAL OF ENTRY

The competent authorities of either Contracting Party reserve the right to deny entry into or stay in the territory of their State to nationals of the other State as specified in Articles 1 and 2 for reasons of protection of state security, public order, public health or other serious reasons.

Article 7

NOTIFICATION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

1. The competent authorities of either Contracting Party shall exchange through diplomatic channels personalised specimens of their respective passports within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the signing of this Agreement.

2. In case of introduction of new diplomatic passports or modification of the existing ones, the Contracting Parties shall convey to each other, through diplomatic channels, personalised specimens of these new or modified passports together with all relevant information on their applicability, not later than 30 (thirty) days prior to their introduction date.

Article 8

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall consult each other on any difficulties arising from the application or interpretation of this Agreement.

2. The Contracting Parties shall resolve through diplomatic channels any disputes arising from the application or interpretation of this Agreement.

Article 9

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment of this Agreement shall be agreed upon between the Contracting Parties through diplomatic channels. They shall enter into force 30 (thirty) days after the date of receipt of the last notification by which the Contracting Parties inform each other of the fulfillment of their relevant internal procedures.

Article 10

NON-AFFECTION CLAUSE

This Agreement shall not affect other obligations of the Contracting Parties arising under international agreements, in particular obligations arising from the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963.

Article 11

DURATION OF VALIDITY AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time. It shall enter into force 30 (thirty) days after receipt of the last written notification, by which the Contracting Parties inform each other on the fulfillment of the relevant internal procedures.

Article 12

SUSPENSION

Each Contracting Party reserves the right to suspend the provisions of this Agreement, in whole or in part, for reasons of protection of state security, public order, public health or other serious reasons. The decision on suspension shall be notified to the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels not later than 48 (forty-eight) hours before it takes effect. The Contracting Party that has suspended the application of this Agreement shall immediately inform the other Contracting Party once the reasons for suspension no longer exist. The suspension shall be terminated on the date of receipt of this notification.

Article 13

TERMINATION

Each Contracting Party may, at any time, notify the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels of its decision to terminate this Agreement. The validity of this Agreement shall terminate 30 (thirty) days after receipt of the notification by the other Contracting Party.

Done in Beijing, on *11 December 2015*, in duplicate in the Chinese, French and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of differences in interpretation, the English text shall be used.

For the Government of the
People's Republic of China

For the
Swiss Federal Council

