

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION FOR HOLDERS OF
DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS
(SPECIAL SERVICE PASSPORTS)

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties"),

With a view to further promoting friendly relations between their countries and facilitating exchange of visits by their citizens;

Having conducted friendly consultations on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service passports (special service passports) on the basis of equality and reciprocity;

HAVE agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Citizens of the People's Republic of China holding valid diplomatic or service passports of the People's Republic of China, and citizens of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe holding valid diplomatic or special service passports of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, shall be exempted from visa requirement for entry into, exit from or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party, for a period of stay not exceeding thirty(30) days from the date of their entry.

ARTICLE II

Citizens of either Contracting Party referred to in Article I of this Agreement(excluding the citizens referred to in Article III), who intend to enter and stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party for a period of more than thirty (30) days or engage in work, study, reside, news reports or other activities which shall be approved in advance by the other Contracting Party's competent authorities, shall apply for the visa before entering the territory of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE III

Citizens of either Contracting Party holding valid diplomatic or service passports (special service passports), who are assigned as

members of diplomatic or consular mission in the territory of the other Contracting Party, as well as members of their families, shall not be required to obtain a visa to entry into, exit from, transit through or stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party for the duration of their accreditation, provided they have complied with the accreditation requirements of the other Contracting Party within thirty (30) days after their arrival.

ARTICLE IV

Citizens of either Contracting Party referred to in Article I of this Agreement shall enter into, exit from or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party through ports open to foreigners and shall adhere to the necessary formalities in accordance with the relevant regulations of the latter's competent authorities.

ARTICLE V

Citizens of either Contracting Party shall abide by the laws and regulations in force in the other Party during their stay in its territory.

ARTICLE VI

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 Contracting Party shall obtain the prior consent of the other Contracting Party or inform the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels before their travel to the latter's territory for official purposes.

ARTICLE VII

This Agreement does not restrict the right of either Contracting Party to prohibit persona non grata or unacceptable citizens of the other Contracting Party from entering its territory or terminate their stay in its territory without citing reasons therefore.

ARTICLE VIII

Either Contracting Party may temporarily suspend this Agreement partially or wholly on grounds of national security, public order or public health. However, it shall notify the other Contracting Party, in writing in advance, of its intention to suspend the Agreement and subsequently to cancel the suspension through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE IX

1. The Contracting Parties shall complete, through diplomatic channels, the exchange of samples of their passports referred to in Article I of this Agreement within thirty (30) days from the date of signing of this Agreement.

2. During the period of validity of this Agreement, either Contracting Party shall inform the other Contracting Party, through diplomatic channels, thirty (30) days before its introduction, of any change to the format of the passports and furnish the latter with samples of new passports.

ARTICLE X

The service passport of the People's Republic of China referred to in this Agreement includes passport for public affairs.

ARTICLE XI

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth (30) day following the date of the latter's written notification by the Contracting Parties, through diplomatic channels, indicating that the domestic requirements for its entry into force have been complied with.


2. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely. If either Contracting Party wishes to terminate this agreement, it shall notify the

other Contracting Party in writing through diplomatic channels, and this Agreement shall cease to be effective on the ninetieth (90) day following the date of notification.

3. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Contracting Parties.

Done in duplicate in *Beijing* on *12th April* *2017* in the Chinese and English languages, the two texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of
the People's Republic of China



For the Government of
the Democratic Republic of
Sao Tome and Principe

