



CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY
OF CENTRAL AFRICA
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION - INTERPOL



The Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (hereinafter referred to as EMCCA), represented by Mr Jean Nkuete, Executive Secretary, and the International Criminal Police Organization (hereinafter referred to as Interpol), represented by Mr Jesús Espigares-Mira, President,

Considering the provisions of the founding treaty of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa which state that the main mission of EMCCA is to promote the harmonious development of its Member States,

Considering the provisions of the Constitution of the International Criminal Police Organization, which stipulate that Interpol's aims are to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", and to establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes,

Noting that under its Constitution it is strictly forbidden for Interpol to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character,

Conscious of the mutually-reinforcing relationship between preventing and fighting crime, the administration of justice, the respect for human rights and the economic development of EMCCA Member States,

Recognizing the importance of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa co-operating with Interpol in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in order to further the realization of the aims of EMCCA,

Recalling, in this connection, that in April 1999 EMCCA and Interpol jointly supported the negotiation and conclusion of a police co-operation agreement between eight Central African States,

Considering that in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness and to prevent duplication of effort, it is essential to develop more effective co-ordination in the field of crime prevention and the administration of justice between Member States of EMCCA with the support of Interpol, and to have the necessary resources for such co-ordination,

Bearing in mind the specific character of the activities of each organization and the methods used to implement them as determined by their respective aims and mandates and the by the provisions of the relevant international instruments,



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Convinced that co-operation between EMCCA and Interpol in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice will contribute towards the achievement of the aims of both organizations,

Desirous to conclude a co-operation agreement to this end,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Areas of co-operation

EMCCA and Interpol undertake to co-operate in the following fields, through their appropriate bodies:

- (a) Responding to the needs of EMCCA Member States in fighting all forms of both national and transnational crime;
- (b) Increasing their efforts to prevent crime at national and regional level and to improve the response to crime, in particular through police training and public-awareness campaigns aimed at alerting the public to the considerable threat posed by certain types of crime;
- (c) Encouraging and supporting all forms of police co-operation between EMCCA Member States and other Central African States, in particular co-operation through Interpol's regional bodies, taking account of the Model Police Co-operation Agreement adopted by the Interpol General Assembly in 1999.

Article 2
Consultation and co-operation

1. EMCCA and Interpol shall exchange views, when appropriate, on policy issues within their respective competence and consult regularly on matters of common interest with a view to achieving their objectives and co-ordinating their positions and activities. When appropriate, they shall also hold consultations on the most effective way of organizing particular activities of common interest related to their respective mandates and on the optimum use of their resources in connection with such activities.
2. EMCCA and Interpol shall set up the appropriate structures for such consultations as and when necessary.







Article 3
Exchange of information and documents

EMCCA and Interpol shall make every effort to achieve the best use of available information related to issues of common interest. To that end, and subject to the necessary limitations for the safeguarding of confidential or semi-confidential material and information, they shall arrange for the exchange of information and documents of common interest.

Article 4
Technical co-operation

1. Should the activities of EMCCA and of Interpol in fields of common interest so dictate, either organization may request the co-operation of the other whenever the latter organization is in a position to help develop such activities.
2. EMCCA and Interpol shall endeavour, as far as possible and in compliance with their constituent instruments and the decisions of their competent bodies, to respond favourably to such requests for co-operation in accordance with procedures and arrangements to be mutually agreed upon.
3. EMCCA and Interpol shall co-operate, when appropriate and to the extent possible, in evaluating projects and programmes of common interest that relate to the areas of their respective competence. Interpol agrees in this regard to assist EMCCA upon request in reviewing national, regional or global crime prevention and criminal justice projects and programmes falling within the area of its expertise.
4. For this purpose, EMCCA and Interpol shall deepen their dialogue and promote the undertaking of joint studies and the provision of advisory services and technical assistance.

Article 5
Joint action

EMCCA and Interpol may, through special arrangements, decide to act jointly in the implementation of projects that are of common interest. The special arrangements shall define the modalities for the participation of each organization in such projects and shall determine the expenses payable by each of them.

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Article 6
Reciprocal representation

1. Interpol and EMCCA undertake to grant each other observer status in accordance with their institutional regulations.
2. Subject to such decisions as may be taken by its competent bodies concerning the attendance of its meetings by observers, EMCCA may, subject to the rules of procedure of the bodies concerned, invite Interpol to send representatives to EMCCA meetings and conferences where observers are allowed, whenever matters of interest to Interpol are discussed. The provisions of this paragraph shall in particular be observed with regard to EMCCA meetings and seminars and conferences on the prevention of crime and on police co-operation.
3. Subject to such decisions as may be taken by its competent bodies concerning the attendance of its meetings by observers, Interpol may invite EMCCA to send representatives to all its meetings and conferences where observers are allowed, whenever matters of interest to EMCCA are discussed.
4. EMCCA and Interpol shall make every effort to ensure that if one of them is involved in organizing an international meeting for the consideration of issues which fall within their respective areas of competence, representatives of the other organization will be invited to attend that meeting.
5. With a view to implementing the above paragraphs, EMCCA and Interpol shall keep each other informed about issues concerning their activities.

Article 7
Co-operation between the Secretariats

1. The Executive Secretary of EMCCA and the Secretary General of Interpol shall consult from time to time regarding the implementation of their respective responsibilities under this Co-operation Agreement and any other issues of common interest.
2. The Executive Secretary of EMCCA and the Secretary General of Interpol shall make appropriate administrative arrangements to ensure effective co-operation and liaison between the Secretariats of the two organizations. For this purpose, they shall designate an official or department to monitor and ensure the implementation of the provisions of the present Co-operation Agreement.







Article 8
Implementation of the Co-operation Agreement

EMCCA and Interpol may, if necessary, enter into supplementary arrangements for the implementation of the present Co-operation Agreement in cases not provided for in Article 5.

Article 9
Entry into force, amendments and duration

1. This Co-operation Agreement shall enter into force on the date it is signed by the Interpol Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of EMCCA, subject to its approval by the Interpol General Assembly and the competent bodies of EMCCA.
2. This Co-operation Agreement may be amended by mutual consent between EMCCA and Interpol expressed in writing.
3. Either organization may terminate this Co-operation Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned duly authorized representatives of EMCCA and of Interpol, have signed the present Co-operation Agreement.

Done in Lyon in two copies in English and French, each text being equally authentic. One of the original copies in English and French will be deposited with EMCCA and the other will be deposited with Interpol.

For the Economic and Monetary
Community of Central Africa

le 26 mars 2001



Jean Nkuete
Executive Secretary

For the International Criminal Police
Organization - Interpol

26-03-2001
J. E. Mira



Jesús Espigares-Mira
President