

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,
AND THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, THE
PUBLIC SERVICE, AIR AND SEAPORT DEVELOPMENT OF ST. VINCENT
AND THE GRENADINES AND THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS,
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

The Parties, the Ministry of National Security, the Public Service, Air and Seaport Development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry") and the Supervisor of Elections (hereinafter referred to as the "Supervisor of Elections") and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as "GS/OAS"),

CONSIDERING:

THAT on the 3rd day of October 2005, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter referred to as "the Government"), through its Prime Minister, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary General") to send an Electoral Observation Mission (hereinafter referred to as "the Mission") to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the purpose of witnessing the elections to the House of Assembly to be held on December 7, 2005;

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly of the OAS recommended to the Secretary General that "when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes;"

THAT Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states in pertinent part as follows:

The electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned. To that end, the government of that state and the Secretary General shall enter into an agreement establishing the scope and coverage of the electoral observation mission in question. The member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission.

Electoral observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The Organization shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They

shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise.

THAT in a letter dated October 19, 2005, the Secretary General responded to the Government's request to send the Mission with the objective of observing the House of Assembly elections on December 7, 2005;

AGREE:

First: Guarantees

a.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections guarantee the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections on December 7, 2005, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in conformity with the relevant laws and standards of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the terms of this Agreement;

b.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections, on and after the day of the elections and will guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally;

c.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of counting and tabulating votes will take place.

Second: Information

a.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will furnish the Mission with all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request of the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of the Mission's functions, and the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections shall promptly furnish all such information;

b.) The Mission may inform the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections about any irregularities and/or interference, which the Mission might observe or of which the Mission might learn. Similarly, the Mission may request the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections to provide any information regarding the measures, which the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will take in relation to such irregularities, and Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections shall promptly furnish all such information;

c.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will provide the Mission with information related to the electoral list and other computerized electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will provide all other information relative to the computer systems used on Election Day, and will offer demonstrations of the systems' operation to the Mission;

d.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary by the Mission of the voting system and of the communication utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will guarantee the Mission complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process and are of interest to the Mission.

e.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections further guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout the national territory of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Upon request of the Mission, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections guarantee to make available by the end of the voting process and, before the closing of the polling stations, copies of all documents printed electronically.

Third: General Provisions

a.) The Secretary General designates the Assistant Secretary General, Albert R. Ramdin as Chief of Mission, who will represent the Mission and its members before the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections and before the Government;

b.) The GS/OAS will communicate to Minister of National Security and the leadership of the Supervisor of Elections the names of the persons who will comprise the group of observers, who will be duly identified;

c.) The Mission will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate;

d.) The General Secretariat will send to the leadership of the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission following the election of the Members of the House of Assembly;

e.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

Fourth: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS or any of its organs may enjoy under the Charter of the Organization, the Agreement between the GS/OAS and the Government in relation to the privileges and immunities of each of the members of the group of observers of the election process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines signed by the Parties on the ____ day of _____, 2005, or under international law

Fifth: Resolution of controversies

The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the procedure agreed in by the Parties.

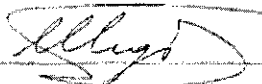
Sixth: Amendments


Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in a writing signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and attached hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in duplicate on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES

FOR THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL
SECURITY, THE PUBLIC SERVICE,
AIR AND SEAPORT DEVELOPMENT
OF ST. VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES, AND THE
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS


Title: _____
Location: Washington, DC, USA
Date: 10 Nov. 2005


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