

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE
INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SURINAME
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission of Suriname and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States ("GS/OAS"),

CONSIDERING:

THAT on the 6th day of May 2004, the Government of Suriname ("the Government") through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States ("the General Secretariat") to send an Electoral Observation Mission of the OAS ("the Mission") with the purpose of witnessing the elections to be held on May 25, 2005;

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. (XIX-O/89) the General Assembly of the OAS reiterated to the Secretary General the recommendation 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 the Secretary General welcomed the Government's request, and arranged to send a Mission to Suriname with the objective of observing the elections on May 25, 2005;

AGREE:

First: Guarantees

a.) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission guarantees the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections on May 25, 2005 in Suriname, in conformity with the relevant laws and standards of Suriname and the terms of this Agreement;

b.) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission, on and after the day of the elections and will guarantee the Mission

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access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally;

c.) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission will guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of casting and tabulating votes will take place.

Second: Information

a.) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission will furnish the Mission all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission will be able to request of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of its functions;

b.) The Mission has the ability to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission about any irregularities and/or interference, which it might observe or of which it might learn. Similarly, the Mission will be able to solicit from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission any information regarding the measures, which the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission will take in relation to such irregularities;

c.) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission will provide the Mission with information related to the electoral list and other computerized electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission 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 of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission will guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission will permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary of the voting system and of the communication utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission will guarantee complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the process and are of interest to the Mission.

e.) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission further guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout the national territory of the Republic of Suriname.

Third: General Provisions

a.) The Acting Secretary General designates Ambassador Corinne McKnight as Chief of Mission, who will represent the Mission and its members before the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission and before the Government;

b.) The GS/OAS will communicate to the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission 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 of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission, following the selection of the President and Vice President;

e.) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission 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 expressly stated or implied in this Agreement shall be construed as a 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 Suriname signed by the parties on the on the _____ day of _____, 2005, or under international law.

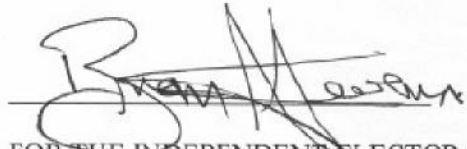
Fifth: Resolution of controversies

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 to by the parties.

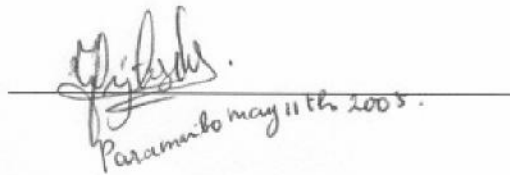
Thus agreed,

Washington, D.C., ____ of ____ 2005

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES



FOR THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION OF SURINAME



FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOME
AFFAIRS OF SURINAME