

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF ST. KITTS AND  
NEVIS**

**AND**

**THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES**

**REGARDING**

**THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

**OF THE OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION FOR**

**THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS IN ST. KITTS AND NEVIS**

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OF THE OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION FOR  
THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS IN ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The Parties to this Agreement, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the “GS/OAS”) and the Government of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (hereinafter referred to as the “Government”),

WHEREAS:

On July 26, 2022, the Government invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the “OAS” or the “Organization”) to observe the General Elections to be held on August 5, 2022 in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis;

The Secretary General of the OAS, informed the Government that he accepted the invitation to establish an Electoral Observer Mission (hereinafter referred to as the “OAS Observer Mission”) for these elections, subject to

obtaining the necessary resources to finance the establishment of the OAS Observer Mission in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis;

The OAS Observer Mission will be comprised of GS/OAS officials and contractors, as well as other international observers specifically under contract to the GS/OAS for the OAS Electoral Observation Mission;

Article 133 of the OAS Charter provides that: “The Organization of American States shall enjoy in the territory of each Member such legal capacity, privileges and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of its functions and the accomplishment of its purposes”; and

The basic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAS, the GS/OAS, and its staff in St. Kitts and Nevis are set out in the Charter of the OAS, which was signed and deposited by the Government on March 12, 1984, and the Agreement Between the GS/OAS and the Government of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis on the Functioning of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and Recognition of Its Privileges and Immunities, which entered into force upon its signature by the Parties on November 8, 1985.

NOW, THEREFORE THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

**CHAPTER I:**  
**PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION**

**ARTICLE I**

The privileges and immunities of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those accorded to the OAS, to the GS/OAS, to their organs, and to their staff.

**ARTICLE II**

2.1. The property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, located in any part of the territory of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against any type of judicial proceeding; save in those specific cases for which said immunity is expressly waived in writing by the Secretary General of the OAS.

2.2 However, it is understood that said waiver of immunity by the Secretary General of the OAS shall not have the effect of subjecting any such property and effects to any type of measure of execution.

**ARTICLE III**

3.1 The premises occupied by the OAS Observer Mission shall be inviolable.

3.2 Moreover, the property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, in any part of the territory of St. Kitts and Nevis and in possession of any person or

entity, shall enjoy immunity against search and seizure, confiscation, expropriation and against any form of intervention, be it executive, administrative, judicial or legislative.

#### ARTICLE IV

The files of the OAS Observer Mission and all of the documents pertaining thereto or in the possession of any person or entity shall be inviolable wherever they are located.

#### ARTICLE V

5.1 The OAS Observer Mission shall be:

- a) Exempt from any internal taxation, it being understood, however, that they may not claim any type of tax exemption that is in fact remuneration for public services;
- b) Exempt from any type of customs duty, prohibition and restriction in respect of articles and publications that they may import or export for their official use. It is understood, however, that the articles they import duty-free may be sold within St. Kitts and Nevis only in accordance with conditions expressly agreed upon by the GS/OAS with the Government; and
- c) Exempt from ordinances, regulations or moratoria of any kind. Moreover, they may have currency of any type, carry their accounts in any foreign currency and transfer their funds in foreign currency.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **MEMBERS OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION**

#### **ARTICLE VI**

The members of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those persons who have been designated by the GS/OAS and accredited with the authorities of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

#### **ARTICLE VII**

7.1 For the period during which the members of the OAS Observer Mission exercise their functions and during their trips to and from the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, they shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a) Immunity from personal detention or arrest as well as immunity from any type of legal proceeding in respect of their actions and statements be they oral or written, done in the performance of their functions;
- b) Immunity from any mandatory measure of quarantine, isolation or any other similar restriction imposed by the Government regarding the pandemic generated by COVID-19;
- c) The inviolability of all papers and documents;
- d) The right to communicate with the GS/OAS via radio, telephone, telegraph, email, satellite or other means, and to

receive documents and correspondence through messengers or in sealed pouches, enjoying for that purpose the same privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic mail, messages, and pouches;

- e) The right to utilize for their movements throughout the national territory, any means of transportation, be it by air, by water or over land;
- f) Exemption in respect of their persons and that of their spouses and children, from any type of immigration restriction and registration of aliens and any type of national service in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis;
- g) The same privileges accorded to the representatives of foreign governments on official mission in respect to foreign-currency restrictions;
- h) The same immunities and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and
- i) Such other privileges, immunities and facilities as are compatible with the foregoing, and enjoyed by diplomatic envoys, with the exception that they shall not enjoy any exemption from customs duties on imported merchandise (that is not part of their personal effects) or sales taxes or consumer taxes.

## ARTICLE VIII

The provisions contained in the preceding Article do not apply to nationals of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis working as local contract staff in the OAS Observer Mission, except in respect of official acts performed or statements issued in the exercise of their functions.

## ARTICLE IX

The OAS Observer Mission may establish and operate in the territory of St. Kitts and Nevis an independent radio communication system to provide an on-going communications link between the observers and the vehicles used by the members of the OAS Observer Mission with Mission offices and regional headquarters, such as the central office in Basseterre and between the latter and the headquarters of the GS/OAS in Washington, D.C., United States of America. The Government shall provide all the technical and administrative support necessary for this to be achieved.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **AIRSPACE AND AIRPORTS**

## ARTICLE X

The Government shall ensure the opening of the Kittitian and Nevisian airspace and the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport in Basseterre and/or Vance W. Amory International Airport in Charlestown to the OAS Observer Mission should these be closed at the time of the arrival of the OAS Observer Mission to St. Kitts and Nevis or at the time of its departure, with no additional



costs accruing to the GS/OAS, the OAS Observer Mission or their carrier for this purpose.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES**

#### **ARTICLE XI**

The OAS Observer Mission shall cooperate with the relevant authorities of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis to prevent any occurrence of abuse in respect of the specified privileges and immunities. Similarly, the relevant authorities shall do whatever is possible to provide the cooperation requested of them by the OAS Observer Mission.

#### **ARTICLE XII**

Without prejudice to the immunities and privileges accorded, the members of the OAS Observer Mission shall respect the laws and regulations existing in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

#### **ARTICLE XIII**

13.1 The Parties shall take any measures necessary to procure an amicable arrangement in the proper settlement of:

- a) Any disputes that may arise in contracts or other questions of private law;

- b) Any disputes to which the OAS Observer Mission and/or any of its members may be parties with respect to matters in which they enjoy immunity.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **NATURE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

#### **ARTICLE XIV**

14.1 The privileges and immunities are granted to the members of the OAS Observer Mission in order to safeguard their independence in the exercise of their functions of observing the General Election Process of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, and not for personal gain or to perform activities of a political nature within the territory of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

14.2 The Secretary General of the OAS may waive the privileges and immunities of any of the members of the OAS Observer Mission in the event that he determines, in his sole discretion, that the exercise of those privileges and immunities may obstruct the course of justice, and so long as the Secretary General determines that such waiver does not prejudice the interests of the OAS or of the GS/OAS.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **ARTICLE XV**

15.1 The Government recognizes the “Official Travel Document” issued by the GS/OAS as a valid and sufficient document for purposes of travel by the members of the OAS Observer Mission who possess this document.

15.2 The Government shall issue to each member of the OAS Observer Mission a visa to enter the country and to remain therein until the end of the OAS Observer Mission.

#### **ARTICLE XVI**

The Government agrees to extend the privileges and immunities of the present Agreement to members of the OAS Observer Mission designated by the GS/OAS, who have been accredited by the authorities of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

#### **ARTICLE XVII**

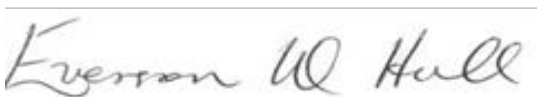
This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Government and of the GS/OAS.

## ARTICLE XVIII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall cease to have effect once the members of the OAS Observer Mission have completed their mission, in accordance with the terms of the request made by the Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this Agreement, in duplicate, on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
SECRETARIAT  
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS  
OF



**H.E. Dr. Everson Hull**  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of St. Kitts and Nevis  
to the Organization of American  
States

Place: Washington, D.C., U.S.A.  
U.S.A.

Date: July 30, 2022

FOR THE GENERAL  
  
OF THE ORGANIZATION  
  
AMERICAN STATES



**Luis Almagro**  
Secretary General  
General Secretariat of the  
Organization of American States

Place: Washington, D.C.,

Date: July 29, 2022