



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ON THE  
ENFORCEMENT OF SENTENCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL COURT**

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# AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF SENTENCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The International Criminal Court (hereinafter referred to as the “Court”) and  
The Government of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”),

## PREAMBLE

**RECALLING** Article 103(1)(a) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (hereinafter referred to as “Rome Statute”), adopted on 17 July 1998 by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries, according to which sentences of imprisonment pronounced by the Court shall be served in a State designated by the Court from a list of States which have indicated their willingness to accept sentenced persons;

**RECALLING** Rule 200(5) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Court (hereinafter referred to as “Rule(s)”), according to which the Court may enter into bilateral arrangements with States with a view to establishing a framework for the acceptance of persons sentenced by the Court, consistent with the Rome Statute;

**RECALLING** the widely accepted international standards governing the treatment of prisoners including the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) adopted by General Assembly resolution 70/175 of 17 December 2015, the Body of Principles for the Protection of all Persons under any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, adopted by General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988, and the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/111 of 14 December 1990;

**NOTING** the willingness of the Government to accept persons sentenced by the Court;

**IN ORDER** to establish a framework describing the conditions under which such sentences will be enforced in Georgia;

**HAVE AGREED** as follows:

## Article 1

### *Purpose and scope of the Agreement*

The Agreement shall regulate matters relating to or arising from the enforcement of sentences pronounced by the Court and served in Georgia. Matters not specifically regulated by this Agreement, or the Statute or Rules, shall be governed by the national legislation of Georgia.

## Article 2

### *Procedure and information relating to designation*

1. After the sentencing of an accused person by the Trial Chamber, the Presidency of the Court (hereinafter referred to as “Presidency”) shall communicate with the Government and request to provide, in a timely manner, an indication of its readiness, as a practical matter, to receive a person convicted by the Court.
2. If the Government indicates its readiness, as a practical matter, to receive a person convicted by the Court, the Presidency shall request the Government to provide the Court with updated information regarding its national penitentiary system, including, *inter alia*, recently promulgated legislation and administrative guidelines.

3. If the Presidency designates Georgia as the State in which the sentenced person shall serve his or her sentence, it shall notify the Government of its decision. When notifying the Government of its designation as the State of enforcement, the Presidency shall transmit, *inter alia*, the following information and documents:
  - (a) Any official personal identification document with photo, including the name, nationality, date and place of birth of the sentenced person;
  - (b) A copy of the final judgment of conviction and of the sentence imposed;
  - (c) The length and commencement date of the sentence and the time remaining to be served;
  - (d) The date on which the sentenced person is eligible for review concerning the reduction of his or her sentence;
  - (e) With due respect for medical confidentiality, any necessary information concerning the state of the sentenced person's health, including any medical treatment that he or she is receiving.
4. The Government shall promptly decide upon the Court's designation, in accordance with its national law, and inform the Presidency whether it accepts the designation.

### **Article 3**

#### *Transfer of the sentenced person*

1. The sentenced person shall be transferred to Georgia as soon as possible after the Government accepts the designation.
2. The Registrar of the Court (hereinafter referred to as "Registrar") shall ensure the proper transfer of the sentenced person in consultation with the Government and the host State of the Court. Upon completion of the transfer, the Registrar shall provide notification to the person designated by a sentenced person pursuant to regulation 186(2)(i) of the Regulations of the Registry. The contact details of the designated person shall be transmitted to the Government.

### **Article 4**

#### *Supervision of enforcement of sentence and conditions of imprisonment*

1. The enforcement of a sentence of imprisonment shall be subject to the supervision of the Court and shall be consistent with widely accepted international standards governing the treatment of prisoners.
2. The communication of information or data relevant to the supervision of the enforcement of sentence and conditions of imprisonment under this Article, shall not be hindered by or dependent upon the consent of the sentenced person.
3. In order to supervise the enforcement of sentences of imprisonment, the Presidency shall:
  - (a) When necessary, request any information, report or expert opinion from the Government or from any reliable sources;
  - (b) Where appropriate, delegate a judge of the Court or a member of the staff of the Court who will be responsible, after notifying the Government, for meeting the sentenced person and hearing his or her views, without the presence of national authorities;
  - (c) Where appropriate, give the Government an opportunity to comment on the views expressed by the sentenced person pursuant to sub-paragraph (b).

4. Communications between a sentenced person and the Court shall be unimpeded and confidential. The Presidency, in consultation with the Government, shall respect these requirements when establishing appropriate arrangements for the exercise by the sentenced person of his or her right to communicate with the Court about the conditions of imprisonment.
5. The conditions of imprisonment shall be governed by the law of Georgia and shall be consistent with widely accepted international standards governing the treatment of prisoners. In no case shall such conditions be more or less favourable than those available to prisoners convicted of similar offences in Georgia.
6. The Government shall notify the Court of any circumstances, including the exercise of any conditions agreed under Article 103(1) of the Rome Statute, which could materially affect the terms or extent of the imprisonment. The Court shall be given at least 45 days' notice of any such known or foreseeable circumstances. During this period, the Government shall take no action that might prejudice its obligations under Article 110 of the Rome Statute.
7. The Government shall promptly inform the Presidency of any important event concerning the sentenced person.
8. When a sentenced person is eligible for a prison programme or benefit available under the domestic law of Georgia which may entail some activity outside the prison facility, the Government shall communicate that fact to the Presidency, together with any relevant information or observation, sufficiently in advance to enable the Court to exercise its supervisory function.
9. The Government shall allow the inspection of the conditions of imprisonment and treatment of the sentenced person(s) by the International Committee of the Red Cross (hereinafter referred to as "ICRC") at any time and on a periodic basis, the frequency of visits to be determined by the ICRC. After each visit to the enforcement State by the ICRC:
  - (a) The ICRC shall submit a confidential report on its findings together with recommendations, as necessary, to the Government and to the Presidency.
  - (b) The Government and the Presidency shall consult each other on the findings of the report. The Presidency shall thereafter request the Government to report any changes in the conditions of imprisonment as a result of the recommendations by the ICRC.
  - (c) The Government and the Presidency shall submit a joint response to the ICRC within 30 calendar days of receiving the report. The joint response shall address the findings of the report and detail measures to implement the recommendations of the report by the Government and the Presidency.

## **Article 5**

### *Appearances before the Court*

If, after transfer of the sentenced person to Georgia, the Court orders that the sentenced person appear before the Court, the sentenced person shall be transferred temporarily to the Court, conditional on his or her return to Georgia within the period decided by the Court. The time spent in the custody of the Court shall be deducted from the term of the overall sentence remaining to be served in Georgia.

## Article 6

### *Limitation on prosecution or punishment*

1. The sentenced person shall not be tried before a court of Georgia for a crime referred to in Article 5 of the Rome Statute for which the person has already been convicted or acquitted by the Court.
2. The sentenced person in the custody of Georgia shall not be subject to prosecution or punishment or to extradition to another State for any conduct engaged in prior to that person's transfer to Georgia, unless such prosecution, punishment or extradition has been approved by the Presidency at the request of the Government, in accordance with the applicable procedures set out at paragraphs 3-9 below.
3. When the Government intends to prosecute or enforce a sentence against the sentenced person for any conduct engaged in prior to the sentenced person's transfer, it shall notify its intention to the Presidency and transmit to it the following documents:
  - (i) A statement of the facts of the case and their legal characterization;
  - (ii) A copy of any applicable legal provisions, including those concerning the statute of limitation and the applicable penalties;
  - (iii) A copy of any sentence, warrant of arrest or other document having the same force, or of any other legal writ which the State intends to enforce;
  - (iv) A protocol containing views of the sentenced person obtained after the person has been informed sufficiently about the proceedings.
4. In the event of a request for extradition made by another State, the Government of Georgia shall transmit the entire request to the Presidency with a protocol containing the views of the sentenced person obtained after informing the person sufficiently about the extradition request.
5. The Presidency may in all cases request any document or additional information from the Government of Georgia or the State requesting the extradition.
6. The Presidency may decide to conduct a hearing.
7. The Presidency shall make a determination as soon as possible. This determination shall be notified to all those who have participated in the proceedings.
8. If the request for prosecution, punishment, or extradition to another State concerns the enforcement of a sentence, the sentenced person may serve that sentence in Georgia or be extradited to another State only after having served the full sentence pronounced by the Court.
9. The Presidency may authorize the temporary extradition of the sentenced person to another State for prosecution only if it has obtained assurances which it deems to be sufficient that the sentenced person will be kept in custody in that State and transferred back to Georgia, after the prosecution.
10. Paragraphs 2-9 of this Article shall cease to apply if the sentenced person remains voluntarily for more than 30 days in the territory of Georgia after having served the full sentence imposed by the Court, or returns to the territory of that State after having left it.

## Article 7

### *Appeal, revision, reduction, and extension of sentence*

1. Subject to the conditions contained in the Agreement, the sentence of imprisonment shall be binding on Georgia, which shall in no case modify it.
2. Georgia shall not release the person from the prison facility before expiry of the sentence pronounced by the Court. The Government shall terminate the enforcement of the sentence as soon as it is informed by the Court of any decision or measure as a result of which the sentence ceases to be enforceable.
3. The Court alone shall have the right to decide any application for appeal and revision and the Government shall not impede the making of any such application by the sentenced person.
4. The Court alone shall have the right to decide any reduction of sentence and shall rule on a reduction of sentence after having heard the person.
5. Where the Presidency extends the term of imprisonment pursuant to Rule 146(5), the Presidency may ask for observations from the Government.

## Article 8

### *Escape*

1. If the sentenced person escapes from custody, the Government shall, as soon as possible, advise the Registrar by any medium capable of delivering a written record.
2. If the sentenced person escapes from custody and flees Georgia, the Government may, after consultation with the Presidency, request the person's extradition or surrender from the State in which the person is located pursuant to any existing bilateral or multilateral arrangements, or may request that the Presidency seek the person's surrender, in accordance with Part 9 of the Rome Statute. It may direct that the person be delivered to Georgia or to another State designated by the Court.
3. If the State in which the sentenced person is located agrees to surrender him or her to Georgia, pursuant to either international agreements or its national legislation, the Government shall so advise the Registrar in writing. The person shall be surrendered to Georgia as soon as possible, if necessary in consultation with the Registrar. The Registrar shall provide all necessary assistance, including, if necessary, the presentation of requests for transit to the States concerned, in accordance with Rule 207.
4. If the sentenced person is surrendered to the Court, the Court shall transfer him or her to Georgia. Nevertheless, the Presidency may, acting on its own motion or at the request of the Prosecutor or of the Government, designate another State, including the State to the territory of which the sentenced person has fled.
5. In all cases, the entire period of detention in the territory of the State in which the sentenced person was in custody after his or her escape and, where paragraph 4 of this Article is applicable, the period of detention at the seat of the Court following the surrender of the sentenced person from the State in which he or she was located shall be deducted from the sentence remaining to be served.

## Article 9

### *Change in designation of Georgia as the State of enforcement*

1. The Presidency, acting on its own motion or at the request of the Government or the sentenced person or the Prosecutor, may, at any time, decide to transfer a sentenced person to a prison of another State.
2. Before deciding to change the designation of Georgia as the State of enforcement, the Presidency may:
  - (a) Request views from the Government;
  - (b) Consider written or oral presentations of the sentenced person and the Prosecutor;
  - (c) Consider written or oral expert opinion concerning, *inter alia*, the sentenced person;
  - (d) Obtain any other relevant information from any reliable sources.
3. The Presidency shall inform the sentenced person, the Prosecutor, the Registrar and the Government of its decision and of the reasons therefor.

## Article 10

### *Transfer of the sentenced person upon completion of the sentence*

1. The Government shall notify the Presidency:
  - (a) 90 calendar days before the scheduled completion of the sentence, that the sentence will be completed;
  - (b) 30 calendar days before the scheduled completion of the sentence of the relevant information concerning the intention of the Government to authorize the person to remain in its territory or the location where it intends to transfer the person.
2. Following completion of the sentence, a sentenced person who is not a national of Georgia may, in accordance with the law of Georgia, be transferred to a State which is obliged to receive him or her, or to another State which agrees to receive him or her, taking into account any wishes of the person to be transferred to that State, unless the Government authorizes the person to remain in its territory.
3. Subject to the provisions of Article 6, Georgia may also, in accordance with its national law, extradite or otherwise surrender the person to a State which has requested the extradition or surrender of the person for purposes of trial or enforcement of a sentence.

## Article 11

### *Costs*

1. The ordinary costs for the enforcement of the sentence in the territory of Georgia shall be borne by the Government.
2. Other costs, including those for the transport of the sentenced person to and from the seat of the Court and to and from Georgia, shall be borne by the Court.
3. In case of escape, the costs associated with the surrender of the sentenced person shall be borne by the Court if no State assumes responsibility for them.

**Article 12**

***Channels of Communication***

1. The channel of communication for the Government shall be Department of State Representation to International Courts of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.
2. The channel of communication for the Court shall be the Legal and Enforcement Unit of the Presidency.

**Article 13**

***Entry into force***

The Agreement shall enter into force upon the signature of both a member of the Presidency of the Court and the Minister of Justice of Georgia.

**Article 14**

***Amendments and termination***

1. The Agreement may be amended following the same procedure as required for its entry into force in Article 13.
2. The Government may at any time withdraw its conditions of acceptance for the inclusion in the list of States of enforcement. Any amendments or additions to such conditions shall be subject to confirmation by the Presidency.
3. The Agreement may be terminated, after consultation, by either party with two months prior written notice. Such termination shall not affect sentences in force at the time of the termination, and the provisions of the Agreement shall continue to apply until such sentences have been completed, terminated or, if applicable, the sentenced person has been transferred in accordance with Article 9 of the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, duly authorized thereto, have signed the Agreement.

Done at The Hague this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019, in duplicate, in the English language.

FOR THE COURT



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Judge Robert Fremr

First Vice-President of the International Criminal Court

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA



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Tea Tsulukiani

Minister of Justice of Georgia