

Headquarters Agreement

Between

The Government of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

And

The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) on the
Establishment of the Headquarters of ENTRO at Addis Ababa

The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, hereinafter called "The Government".

Recalling the decision of the Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (Cairo – Egypt, 10th Jan. 2002) establishing the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Considering the overall purpose of the ENTRO to support the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program Team (ENSAPT) and the Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM).

Recalling also the Agreed Minutes of Nile COM signed in Feb. 1999 between the Nile Basin States; and the Minutes of the 9th ENCOM Meeting. Desirous of concluding a Headquarters agreement to govern the legal status of ENTRO in Ethiopia;

Have agreed upon the following:

Article 1-The ENTRO shall be established as a regional organization having its Headquarters in the city of Addis Ababa, Capital City of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Article 2- The ENTRO shall have the legal personality in the host country to enable it to carry out its duties. It has a right to sue and be sued and to hold, sell or transfer property under its own name.

Article 3-The premises of the ENTRO, its assets, its documents and archives, shall be inviolable.

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Article 4- The Government undertakes to ensure that the tranquillity of the ENTRO premises is not disturbed by illegal entry of a person or group of persons.

Article 5- The appropriate Ethiopian authorities shall ensure access to or from Ethiopia of the following persons:

- a) Senior Technical Specialists designated in the ENTRO together with their families residing with and dependent on them;
- b) Staff of the ENTRO together with their families residing with and dependent on them;
- c) Persons, other than officials of the ENTRO's performing missions for the ENTRO;
- d) Other persons invited to the ENTRO on official business, whose names shall be communicated by ENTRO.

Article 6 - The Technical Specialists of ENTRO shall, in the exercise of their functions, enjoy in the territory of Ethiopia the following privileges and immunities:

- 1) Immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;
- 2) Immunity from seizure of their personal and official baggage;
- 3) Inviolability of all papers and documents belonging to or in the custodianship of the ENTRO.

Article 7-

- 1) The Technical Specialists of ENTRO and its officials shall be exempted from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the ENTRO.
- 2) The Technical Specialists of ENTRO shall be exempted from customs duties on their personal effects including one personal vehicle.

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- 3) The same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as are accorded to officials of Regional Organizations of comparable rank.

Article 8 - The officials of ENTRO shall respect the relevant laws and regulations of Ethiopia.

Article 9 - The ENTRO undertakes to co-operate with the competent authorities of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to facilitate good administration of justice in the headquarters.

Article 10 - The ENTRO, its assets, income and other property shall be exempt:

- (1) From all direct taxes; it is understood, however, that ENTRO shall not claim exemption from taxes which are, in fact, no more than charges for services.
- (2) From customs duties in respect of articles imported by the ENTRO for its exclusive official use; it is understood, however, that articles imported under such exemption will not be transferred in Ethiopia except under conditions agreed with the Government.
- (3) From customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of its publications.

Article 11 - The ENTRO may hold and transfer funds and operate accounts in any convertible currency. Subject to national banking and exchange control regulations it may freely convert such funds to any currency.

Article 12 - The ENTRO shall for its official communications enjoy treatment not less favorable than that accorded to regional organizations of comparable status.

Article 13 - The official communications of the ENTRO may neither be subject to censor, intercepted nor impeded in any manner whatsoever.

Article 14-Any dispute that may arise between ENTRO and the Government concerning the interpretation or the application of this Agreement, shall be resolved through negotiations.

Article 15-Either party may propose the amendment of this Agreement to the other. Amendments shall be in writing and may be expressed by exchange of letters or by formal amendment of the agreement, as is deemed appropriate by both parties.

Article 16- The present Agreement shall come into force upon signature and shall remain in force unless it is terminated at any time by mutual agreement.

In witness whereof the undersigned duly authorized representatives of the Government and the ENTRO have on behalf of the parties signed the present Agreement on the Sixteenth day of February 2002 in Addis Ababa.

For the Government of the
Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia

For the Eastern Nile Technical
Regional Office

