

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
ON
THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION
OF CERTAIN CULTURAL PROPERTIES

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Belarus (also herein referred to as "Party" and "Parties"),

Desirous of productive mutual cooperation in the field of cultural heritage,

Convinced that such cooperation will contribute to the strengthening of the relationship between the two states,

Bearing in mind the respect due to fundamental human rights, and seeking to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, ethnicities, and religious groups,

Convinced that each culture has a dignity and a value which must be respected and preserved, and that all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all mankind,

Desiring to enhance the protection of cultural heritage and provide access to treasures of national and world culture without discrimination,

Concerned that deterioration or disappearance of items of the cultural heritage constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

Considering that the protection of cultural heritage can be more effective if organized among states working in cooperation,

Recalling the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and

Desirous of elaborating concrete steps in furtherance of the principles and purposes of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage done November 23, 1972, with respect to certain items of cultural heritage of victims of genocide during the Second World War,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Each Party will take appropriate steps to protect and preserve properties that represent the cultural heritage of all national, religious, or ethnic groups that reside, or resided in its territory, including groups that were victims of genocide during the Second World War.

The term "cultural heritage" for the purposes of this Agreement means places of worship, sites of historical significance, monuments, cemeteries, memorials, and archival materials.

ARTICLE 2

Each Party will ensure that there is no discrimination against the cultural heritage of any group referred to in Article 1 or against the nationals of the other Party in the protection and preservation of cultural heritage.

ARTICLE 3

The Parties shall cooperate in identifying lists of appropriate sites and related items of cultural heritage which fall within the scope of Article 1, particularly those which are in danger of deterioration or destruction.

ARTICLE 4

Each Party shall invite the cooperation of the other Party and its nationals where assistance is required to protect and preserve cultural heritage within its territory.

This assistance shall be provided in accordance with national laws and regulations of the Parties.

ARTICLE 5

The United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the American side. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the Belarusian side.

ARTICLE 6

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to relieve either Party of its obligations pursuant to the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage or any other agreement for the protection of cultural heritage.

ARTICLE 7

This Agreement shall be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations of both countries and shall not entail any additional financial burden for the budgets of the Parties.

ARTICLE 8

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature. It may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by either Party giving six months' prior written notice through diplomatic channels to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

DONE at New York, on this 21st day of September 2016, in duplicate, in the English and Belarusian languages, each text being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS:**

Lesly Keiss

Y. Smirnov