



TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of the Republic of Suriname and the Government of the Republic of France:

Conscious of the plight of the refugees from Suriname, the majority of which presently is accommodated by the Government of France in the French Department of Guiana;

Mindful that repatriation should take place on a strictly voluntary basis, as the result of the freely-expressed wish of the refugees, in conditions of safety and dignity;

Conscious that the progressive re-establishment of a climate of confidence by all concerned is necessary for the successful voluntary repatriation of these refugees;

Mindful that any project for voluntary repatriation and resettlement of these refugees should be sound and adequate, established by recognized international experts in this field and carried out in an organized manner, while bearing in mind the right of every Surinamese citizen to return to and resettle in his/her country on an individual basis;

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Mindful also that the cost of such a project will be too great for Suriname to bear in the present extremely difficult economic circumstances and that, therefore, international support will be required;

Bearing in mind the fundamental mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to promote durable solutions to refugee problems, the foremost of which is voluntary repatriation;

The two Governments having requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to be associated with the efforts to register the refugees from Suriname and to elaborate programmes aimed at voluntary repatriation and resettlement in their regions of origin and having been informed of the willingness of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to participate in this endeavour and to solicit the support of the international community;

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of the Republic of Suriname and the Government of the Republic of France, hereafter called the Contracting Parties,

*[Handwritten signatures]*



Have agreed:

to establish a Tripartite Commission composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties under the Chairmanship of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to work out the modalities of the voluntary repatriation of the Surinamese refugees;

that the activities of the Tripartite Commission shall be exclusively humanitarian and non-political;

that the Commission shall elaborate plans and programmes conducive to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of the refugees to their regions of origin;

that the Commission shall establish its own rules of procedure, frequency and venue of meetings;

to request the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to appeal to the international community for the technical co-operation and financial support of Governments and national and international organizations for the implementation of these programmes;

*[Handwritten signatures]*



that representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and representatives of any other organization working under the aegis of the Tripartite Commission, should have free access at all times to the refugees and returnees to ensure the voluntariness of their return and to the areas to which they are returning, to ensure a smooth implementation of these programmes, and the international assistance provided therefore; and

to request the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in his capacity of Chairman of the Commission, to make a quarterly progress report on the activities of the Tripartite Commission established by this Agreement.

This Agreement is established in three originals in the English, Dutch and French languages, each text being equally authentic.

Done at Paramaribo, 25th of August, 1983

For:  
The United Nations  
High Commissioner  
for Refugees,

For:  
The Government of  
the Republic of  
Suriname,

For:  
The Government of  
the Republic of  
France,