



BY AUTHORITY

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# SOLOMON ISLANDS GAZETTE

NO. 259

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September

2022

## EXTRA-ORDINARY GAZETTE

[625]

### **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL OR SERVICE PASSPORTS AND PASSPORTS FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**The Government of Solomon Islands and the Government of the People's Republic of China** (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties"),

With a view to further promoting friendly relations between their countries and facilitating exchange of visits by their citizens;

Having conducted friendly consultations on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, service or official passports and passports for public affairs on the basis of equality and reciprocity;

Have agreed as follows:

#### **ARTICLE I**

Citizens of Solomon Islands holding valid diplomatic and official passports of Solomon Islands, and citizens of the People's Republic of China holding valid diplomatic, and service passports and passports for public affairs of the People's Republic of China, shall be exempted from visa requirements to enter into, transit through, stay in or leave the territory of the other Contracting Party, for a period of not exceeding thirty(30) days from the date of their entry.

#### **ARTICLE II**

Citizens of either Contracting Party referred to in Article I, who intend to enter and stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party for a period of more than thirty (30) days or engage in work, study, reside, news report or other activities which shall be approved in advance by the other Contracting Party's competent authorities, and shall apply for the visa before entering the territory of the other Contracting Party.

### **ARTICLE III**

Members of diplomatic mission, consular post or international organizations holding valid diplomatic, official or service passports and passports for public affairs, as well as their family members holding valid diplomatic, official or service passports and passports for public affairs, shall be exempted from visa requirements to enter into, transit through, stay in or leave the territory of the other Contracting Party for the duration of their accreditation, provided they have complied with the accreditation requirements of the other Contracting Party within thirty (30) days from the date of their entry.

### **ARTICLE IV**

Citizens of either Contracting Party referred to in Article I shall enter into, transit through, stay in or leave the territory of the other Contracting Party through ports open to foreigners and shall adhere to the necessary formalities in accordance with the relevant regulations of the latter's competent authorities.

### **ARTICLE V**

Citizens of either Contracting Party shall abide by the laws and regulations in force in the other Contracting Party during their stay in its territory.

### **ARTICLE VI**

Officials at or above vice ministerial level of the central government and officers of or above the rank of major general of the armed forces of either Contracting Party shall obtain the prior consent of the other Contracting Party or inform the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels before their travel to the latter's territory for official purposes.

### **ARTICLE VII**

The Agreement does not restrict the right of either Contracting Party to prohibit persona non grata or unacceptable citizens of the other Contracting Party from entering its territory or terminate their stay in its territory without citing reasons thereof.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

Either Contracting Party may temporarily suspend this Agreement partially or wholly on grounds of national security, public order or public health. However, it shall notify the other Contracting Party in writing in advance of its intention to suspend the Agreement and subsequently to cancel the suspension through diplomatic channels.

### **ARTICLE IX**

1. The Contracting Parties shall complete, through diplomatic channels, the exchange of samples of their passports referred to in Article I of this Agreement within

thirty (30) days from the date of signing this Agreement.

2. During the period of validity of this Agreement, either Contracting Party shall inform the other Contracting Party, through diplomatic channels thirty (30) days before its introduction, of any change to the format of the passports and furnish the latter with samples of new passports.

#### **ARTICLE X**

1. Any dispute between the Contracting Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between Contracting Parties.

2. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing between the Contracting Parties. The amendments shall become effective in accordance with the procedures referred to in Article XI of this Agreement.

#### **ARTICLE XI**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth (30) day following the date of the latter's written notification by the Contracting Parties, through diplomatic channels, indicating that the domestic requirements for its entry into force have been complied with.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely. If either Contracting Party wishes to terminate this agreement, it shall notify the other Contracting Party in writing through diplomatic channels, and this Agreement shall cease to be effective on the ninetieth (90) day following the date of notification.

Hereby, confirm that the Agreement is to be signed by the representatives designated by both Governments of Contracting Parties.

Done at Honiara, in two originals in the English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of  
Solomon Islands

**HON. JEREMIAH MANELE**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the  
People's Republic of China

**XIE FENG**  
Vice Foreign Affairs Minister

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