

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON COOPERATION IN NATURAL AND MAN-MADE TECHNOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Signed Moscow, 16 JUL 1996.

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America, (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties),

Recognizing:

The need for cooperation in man-made technological emergency and natural disaster prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery;

That cooperation in the areas of natural and man-made technological emergency preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation can promote the well-being and security of both nations;

The usefulness to the Parties of scientific and technical information exchanges, emergency simulations, and joint training exercises on natural and man-made, technological emergency prevention and response;

The need for improved mechanisms of communication and cooperation between the Parties during times of natural and man-made technological emergencies in their two countries;

The importance of consultation and cooperation between the Parties in responding to natural and man-made technological emergencies in other nations, and the necessity of expanding the existing relevant collaboration under the Russian Federation-United States Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources of June 23, 1994, and within the framework of the Russian-U.S. Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation (the Chernomyrdin-Gore Commission); and the role of international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, and NATO, as well as the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, International Atomic Energy Agency, other international bodies, and non-governmental organizations in natural and man-made technological emergency prevention and response;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties will cooperate in emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of natural and man-made technological disasters not occurring within the context of international or internal military or civilian conflict. To this end, the Parties may cooperate in the following areas of mutual interest:

1. Development of techniques and methods for increasing the Parties, capabilities in emergency preparedness, response, recovery and of natural and man-made technological disasters, including:

monitoring of dangerous environmental, industrial, and natural phenomena;

forecasting of natural and man-made technological emergencies and disasters;

assessment of disaster effects and response needs; and development of contingency plans.

2. Establishment of formal mechanisms for timely and direct communication of:

information on natural and man-made technological emergencies or disasters occurring on their territories;

requests for, and offers of, assistance between the Parties;

possible joint responses to natural and man-made technological emergencies or disasters in third countries; and

information from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations, the Civil Emergency Planning Directorate of NATO, the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Working Group of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, and other relevant international bodies.

3. Consideration of international and non-governmental organizations in the Parties' capabilities for emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation of natural and man-made technological emergencies.

Cooperation in the above areas will be based on principles of equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit and will be aimed at solving common problems and improving the Parties' emergency preparedness and relief operations in cases of natural and man-made technological disasters.

ARTICLE II

Cooperation under this Memorandum may involve:

Exchanges of specialists, researchers, information, technology, and assessment methodologies;

Joint conferences, seminars, workshops, as well as joint planning and development of research and demonstration projects;

Development of Geographic Information Systems, data bases, and inventories applicable of the subject matter of this Memorandum.

Publication of printed materials, reports, and case studies;

Creation of communication links between government agencies of the Parties; and

Such other natural and man-made technological emergency related activities as may be mutually agreed by the Executive Agents designated by the Parties pursuant to Article V of this Memorandum.

ARTICLE III 1

The Parties will encourage, as appropriate, cooperation by government agencies and ministries other than those named by the Parties as Executive Agents, and by interested international and non-governmental organizations involved in the areas applicable to this Memorandum.

ARTICLE IV

To implement this Memorandum, the Parties will establish a Joint Committee on Cooperation in Natural and Man-made Technological Emergency Prevention and Response (hereinafter referred to as "the Joint Committee").

The Executive Agents will establish procedures for the operation of the Joint Committee and will establish sub-units thereof by mutual agreement. The Joint Committee will plan and coordinate cooperative activities under this Memorandum and review progress of such activities. The Joint Committee will meet at least annually.

Meetings of the Joint Committee will be held alternately in the Russian Federation and the United States, unless otherwise agreed by the Executive Agents

ARTICLE V 1

With a view to coordinating efforts to implement this Memorandum, each Party will designate one or more Executive Agents. The Executive Agent for the Russian Federation will be the Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia). The Executive Agent for United States of America will be the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance of the Agency for International Development (OFDA) will act on behalf of the U.S. Executive Agent on matters concerning international humanitarian assistance.

The Executive Agents will facilitate the conduct of cooperative activities, including organizing and determining the membership of the Joint Committee.

The Executive Agents will develop cooperative action plans and other appropriate activities in implementation of this Memorandum.

Each Party will notify the other Party without delay should an Executive Agent cease to have authority to function in that capacity; a Party will, as soon as possible, but no later than sixty (60) days from the date of such notification, advise the other of the identity of the successor Executive Agent.

ARTICLE VI

All cooperative activities under this Memorandum including exchanges of information, exchanges of specialists, training and exercises, and implementation of other cooperative activities, will be conducted in accordance with the respective national laws and regulations of the Parties states and will be subject to the availability to each Party of appropriated or necessary funds, resources, and personnel.

ARTICLE VII

In accordance with international law and with the laws of both states, each Party shall, for the purpose of cooperative activities under this Memorandum, facilitate access to areas that are under its jurisdiction, as well as to relevant institutions, organizations, and sources of information under such reasonable conditions as the Party may establish.

ARTICLE VIII

Information derived pursuant to activities under this Memorandum, with the exception of information that is not disclosable under the applicable laws and regulations of either state, will be made available to the world community through customary channels and the normal practices and regulations of the Parties, except when otherwise agreed in writing by the Executive Agents.

ARTICLE IX

This Memorandum shall not affect the cooperation of the Russian Federation or the United States of America with other States and international organizations, nor shall it affect ongoing cooperative activities between Russian Federation and United States government agencies.

ARTICLE X₁

This Memorandum will remain in force for a period of ten years, and may be extended for additional ten year periods upon written agreement of the Parties. This Memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum upon six months, written notice to the other Party.

Expiration or termination of this memorandum will not affect the validity or duration of any activity initiated prior to termination but not completed at the time of expiration or termination.

This Memorandum supersedes, as between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United States of America on cooperation in Natural and Man Made Emergency Prevention and Response of July 30, 1991.

