

AGREED MINUTES
OF THE
SECOND SESSION
OF THE
PERMANENT JOINT COMMISSION
FOR BILATERAL CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
5 JUNE 2018

The second session of the Permanent Joint Commission between Malta and Ghana was held in Accra on 5 June 2018. This meeting was held within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a Permanent Joint Commission for Bilateral Co-operation which was signed between the two countries on 26 September 2014.

The Malta and Ghana sides recalled the State Visit by the President of Malta to Ghana which took place from 25 to 28 July 2017, during which a Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Political Consultations was signed, as well as a Cooperation Agreement between the Malta and Ghana Chambers of Commerce and between Trade Malta and the Ghana Association of Industries. The opening of the High Commission in Ghana was also highlighted as the first diplomatic representation of the Government of Malta in sub-Saharan Africa.

The two sides discussed several proposals aimed at enhancing and developing bilateral relations and cooperation as well as exchanges between the two countries in the areas of migration, police cooperation, medicine, fisheries, tourism, culture, education, multilateral matters and intercountry adoption.

I. Tourism and Culture

The Ghana side observed that a draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in Tourism and Culture between the two countries had been presented to the Malta authorities in December 2017. The Malta side had communicated its views including proposed amendments on the aforementioned draft through diplomatic channels.

The Ghana side agreed to communicate its views on the proposed amendments through diplomatic channels. Both sides agreed to proceed with the finalisation of the draft MoU with a view to signing it at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Malta side confirmed the waiver of fees by the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) for two students from Ghana to follow courses in hospitality and tourism and agreed to provide the contact details of the respective ITS focal person.

II. Migration Matters and Police Cooperation

The two sides agreed that the fight against irregular migration must be pursued to prevent loss of life in the Mediterranean and all other associated negative consequences. Both sides acknowledged that the only way to deal with migration was through effective management.

The Malta side observed that a draft Memorandum of Understanding on migration related matters between the two countries had been sent for consideration of the Ghana authorities in 2015 and feedback was awaited. The Ghana side agreed to communicate its views on the aforementioned MoU through the usual diplomatic channels. The two sides agreed to exchange contact details of the respective focal persons.

The two sides expressed their desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the police force of the respective countries. Both sides noted the importance and benefit of exchange programmes and training mechanisms offered both by the Malta Police Force and the Ghana Police Force.

III. Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Ghana side recalled that it had submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding in Fisheries in April 2018 to the Malta side which had communicated its agreement on the aforementioned draft through diplomatic channels. An exchange was held on the common areas of interest.

Both sides agreed to proceed with the finalisation of the draft MoU with a view to signing it at the earliest possible opportunity.

IV. Health Development – Pharmaceuticals and Medical Technologies

The two sides expressed their shared willingness to develop fruitful collaboration between their respective entities in the pharmaceutical sector. The Malta side recalled that it had submitted in May 2018 a draft Memorandum of Understanding in that regard.

Cooperation in the areas of the Malta Medicines Authority International Fellowship Programme and Capacity Building in Pharmacy and Ghana's proposals in the areas of health development and exchange of expertise in medical technologies and pharmaceuticals were discussed.

The Ghana side agreed to communicate its views on the above-mentioned MoU through the usual diplomatic channels.

V. Education and Youth Employment

The Ghana side confirmed that it would submit a draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in Education and Inter-University exchange programmes. The draft was to include references to scholarships for Masters Degree offered by the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies, for officials employed in the Ghana Foreign Ministry and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute which offers training of specialists in maritime law.

In addition, it was agreed that a reference to cooperation in youth employment such as technical vocational and educational training would also be included.

The Malta side pledged to communicate its views on the MoU, once received, through diplomatic channels.

VI. Multilateral Matters

Both sides discussed cooperation at the multilateral level, in particular on candidatures and the Commonwealth. The two countries agreed to collaborate at the multilateral level.

The Malta side recalled the arrangement of reciprocal support put forward by Malta, whereby Malta would support the candidature of Ghana to a non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2020-2021, during the elections in 2019 on the understanding that Ghana would support the candidature of Malta to a non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2023-2024, during the elections in 2022.

The Ghana side undertook to consider the proposed arrangement.

VII. Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)

Regarding Trade and Investment both sides agreed to take forward the discussions on a separate track. In this regard the two sides agreed to exchange contact details of the respective focal persons.

VIII. Any Other Business

A. Adoptions

The two sides expressed their common satisfaction with the progress registered where Ghana acceded to the Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of inter-country adoptions on 1 January 2017, thus enabling the possibility of adoptions from Ghana to Malta.

The Ghana side undertook to send a copy of the Regulations on Adoption and Foster Care. The Malta side reiterated its intention to submit a proposal with regard to inter-country adoption after the necessary due diligence was carried out.

B. Aviation

The Malta side noted that, due to the technical nature of the subject of aviation, discussions on that matter should be held at a separate forum.

The Ghana side proposed that the ICAN meeting in Kenya could be an opportunity for discussions on an Air Services Agreement. The Malta side stated that its participation at the ICAN meeting was not envisaged. The Maltese side proposed to commence discussions on air services at a mutually convenient location and date.


IX. Conclusions

The Ghana side accepted the invitation for a meeting at the Ministerial level, which would be held in Valletta, Malta at a mutually convenient date.

Done and signed in the city of Valletta, Malta on 26 March 2019, in two original copies in the English language.

On behalf of

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MALTA

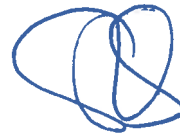


Carmelo Abela

Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Trade Promotion

On behalf of

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Regional Integration