

**Agreement between  
the Government of the United States of America  
and  
the Government of the Republic of Croatia  
On Enhancing Cooperation in  
Preventing and Combating Serious Crime**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter "the Parties"),

Prompted by the desire to cooperate as partners to prevent and combat serious crime, particularly terrorism, more effectively,

Recognizing that information sharing is an essential component in the fight against serious crime, particularly terrorism,

Recognizing the importance of preventing and combating serious crime, particularly terrorism, while respecting fundamental rights and freedoms, notably privacy, and

Seeking to enhance and encourage cooperation between the Parties in the spirit of partnership,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1  
Definitions**

For the purposes of this Agreement,

1. "Criminal justice purpose" shall include activities defined as the administration of criminal justice, which means the performance of any of the following activities: detection, apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation activities of accused persons or criminal offenders. The administration of criminal justice also includes criminal identification activities;
2. "DNA profiles (DNA identification patterns)" shall mean a letter or numerical code representing a number of identifying features of the non-coding part of an analyzed human DNA sample, i.e. of the specific chemical form at the various DNA loci;
3. "Personal data" shall mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (the "data subject");
4. "Processing of personal data" shall mean any operation or set of operations that is performed upon personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organization, storage, adaptation or alteration, sorting, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by supply, dissemination or otherwise making available, combination or alignment, blocking, or deletion through erasure or destruction of personal data as well as performing logic, mathematical and other operations with these data;

5. "Reference data" shall mean a DNA profile and the related reference number (DNA reference data) or fingerprint data and the related reference (fingerprint reference data). Reference data must not contain any data from which the data subject can be directly identified. Reference data not traceable to any individual (untraceables) must be recognizable as such.
6. "Serious crimes" shall mean, for purposes of implementing this Agreement, conduct constituting an offense punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of more than one year or a more serious penalty. To ensure compliance with their national laws, the Parties may agree to specify particular serious crimes for which a Party shall not be obligated to supply personal data as described in Articles 6 and 9 of the Agreement.

## **Article 2**

### **Purpose of this Agreement**

The purpose of this Agreement is to enhance the cooperation between the United States of America and the Republic of Croatia in preventing and combating serious crime.

## **Article 3**

### **Fingerprint data**

For the purpose of implementing this Agreement, the Parties shall ensure the availability of reference data from the file for the national automated fingerprint identification systems established for the prevention and investigation of criminal offenses. Reference data shall only include fingerprint data and a reference.

## **Article 4**

### **Automated querying of fingerprint data**

1. For the prevention and investigation of serious crime, each Party shall allow the other Party's national contact points, as referred to in Article 7, access to the reference data in the automated fingerprint identification system, which it has established for that purpose, with the power to conduct automated queries by comparing fingerprint data. Queries may be conducted only in individual cases and in compliance with the querying Party's national law.
2. Comparison of fingerprint data with reference data held by the Party in charge of the file shall be carried out by the querying national contact points by means of the automated supply of the reference data required for a clear match.
3. When needed, further analysis for the purpose of confirming a match of the fingerprint data with reference data held by the Party in charge of the file shall be carried out by the requested national contact points.

## **Article 5**

### **Alternative means to query using identifying data**

1. Until the Republic of Croatia has a fully operational and automated fingerprint identification system that links to individual police and criminal records and is prepared to provide the United States of America with automated access to such a system, it shall provide an alternative means to conduct a query using other identifying data to determine a clear match linking the individual to additional data. Query powers shall be exercised in the same manner as provided in Article 4 and a clear match shall be treated the same as a firm match of fingerprint data to allow for the supply of additional data as provided for in Article 6.
2. The querying powers provided for under this Agreement shall be used only for a criminal justice purpose, including when applied at the border where an individual for whom the additional data is sought has been identified for further inspection.

## **Article 6**

### **Supply of further personal and other data**

Should the procedure referred to in Article 4 show a match between fingerprint data, or should the procedure utilized pursuant to Article 5 show a match, the supply of any available further personal data and other data relating to the reference data shall be governed by the national law, including the legal assistance rules, of the requested Party and shall be supplied in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 7.

## **Article 7**

### **National contact points and implementing agreements**

1. For the purpose of the supply of data as referred to in Articles 4 and 5, and the subsequent supply of further personal data as referred to in Article 6, each Party shall designate one or more national contact points. The contact point shall supply such data in accordance with the national law of the Party designating the contact point. Other available legal assistance channels need not be used unless necessary, including to authenticate such data for purposes of its admissibility in judicial proceedings of the requesting Party.
2. The technical and procedural details for the queries conducted pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 shall be set forth in one or more implementing agreements or arrangements. Such agreements or arrangements shall also include a comprehensive set of offenses that will be the basis for cooperation under respective national laws and that are punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of more than one year or a more serious penalty.

## **Article 8**

### **Automated querying of DNA profiles**

1. If permissible under the national law of both Parties and on the basis of reciprocity, the Parties may allow each other's national contact point, as referred to in Article 10, access to the reference data in their DNA analysis files, with the power to conduct automated queries by comparing DNA profiles for the investigation of serious crime. Queries may be made only in individual cases and in compliance with the querying Party's national law.
2. Should an automated query show that a DNA profile supplied matches a DNA profile entered in the other Party's file, the querying national contact point shall receive by automated notification the reference data for which a match has been found. If no match can be found, automated notification of this shall be given.

## **Article 9**

### **Supply of further personal and other data**

Should the procedure referred to in Article 8 show a match between DNA profiles, the supply of any available further personal data and other data relating to the reference data shall be governed by the national law, including the legal assistance rules, of the requested Party and shall be supplied in accordance with Article 10.

## **Article 10**

### **National contact point and implementing agreements**

1. For the purposes of the supply of data as set forth in Article 8, each Party shall designate a national contact point. The contact point shall supply such data in accordance with the national law of the Party designating the contact point. Other available legal assistance channels need not be used unless necessary, including to authenticate such data for purposes of its admissibility in judicial proceedings of the requesting Party.
2. The technical and procedural details for the queries conducted pursuant to Article 8 shall be set forth in one or more implementing agreements or arrangements. Such agreements or arrangements shall also include a comprehensive set of offenses that will be the basis for cooperation under respective national laws and that are punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of more than one year or a more serious penalty.

## **Article 11**

### **Supply of personal and other data in order to prevent serious criminal and terrorist offenses**

1. For the prevention of serious criminal and terrorist offenses, the Parties may, in compliance with their respective national law, in individual cases, even without being requested to do so, supply the other Party's relevant national contact point, as referred

to in paragraph 6, with the personal data specified in paragraph 2, in so far as is necessary because particular circumstances give reason to believe that the data subject(s):

- a) will commit or has committed terrorist or terrorism related offenses, or offenses related to a terrorist group or association, as those offenses are defined under the supplying Party's national law; or
  - b) is undergoing or has undergone training to commit the offenses referred to in subparagraph a; or
  - c) will commit or has committed a serious criminal offense, or participates in an organized criminal group or association.
2. The personal data to be supplied shall include, if available, surname, first names, former names, other names, aliases, alternative spelling of names, sex, date and place of birth, current and former nationalities, passport number, numbers from other identity documents, and fingerprint data, as well as a description of any conviction or of the circumstances giving rise to the belief referred to in paragraph 1.
  3. The supplying Party may, in compliance with its national law, impose conditions on the use that may be made of such data by the receiving Party. If the receiving Party accepts such data, it shall be bound by any such conditions.
  4. Generic restrictions with respect to the legal standards of the receiving Party for processing personal data may not be imposed by the transmitting Party as a condition under paragraph 3 to providing data.
  5. In addition to the personal data referred to in paragraph 2, the Parties may provide each other with non-personal data related to the offenses set forth in paragraph 1.
  6. Each Party shall designate one or more national contact points for the exchange of personal and other data under this Article with the other Party's contact points. The powers of the national contact points shall be governed by the national law applicable.

## **Article 12**

### **Privacy and Data Protection**

1. The Parties recognize that the handling and processing of personal data that they acquire from each other is of critical importance to preserving confidence in the implementation of this Agreement.
2. The Parties commit themselves to process personal data fairly and in accordance with their respective laws and:
  - a) ensuring that the personal data provided are adequate and relevant in relation to the specific purpose of the transfer;
  - b) retaining personal data only so long as necessary for the specific purpose for which the data were provided or further processed in accordance with this Agreement; and

- c) ensuring that possibly inaccurate personal data are timely brought to the attention of the receiving Party in order that appropriate corrective action is taken.
3. This Agreement shall not give rise to rights on the part of any private person, including to obtain, suppress, or exclude any evidence, or to impede the sharing of personal data. Rights existing independently of this Agreement, however, are not affected.

### **Article 13**

#### **Additional Protection for Transmission of Special Categories of Personal Data**

1. Personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions or religious or other beliefs, trade union membership or concerning health and sexual life may only be provided if they are particularly relevant to the purposes of this Agreement.
2. The Parties, recognizing the special sensitivity of the above categories of personal data, shall take suitable safeguards, in particular appropriate security measures, in order to protect such data.

### **Article 14**

#### **Limitation on processing to protect personal and other data**

1. Without prejudice to Article 11, paragraph 3, each Party may process data obtained under this Agreement:
  - a) for the purpose of its criminal investigations;
  - b) for preventing a serious threat to its public security;
  - c) in its non-criminal judicial or administrative proceedings directly related to investigations set forth in subparagraph (a); or
  - d) for any other purpose, only with the prior consent of the Party which has transmitted the data.
2. The Parties shall not communicate data provided under this Agreement to any third State, international body or private entity without the consent of the Party that provided the data and without the appropriate safeguards.
3. A Party may conduct an automated query of the other Party's fingerprint or DNA files under Articles 4 or 8, and process data received in response to such a query, including the communication whether or not a hit exists, solely in order to:
  - a) establish whether the compared DNA profiles or fingerprint data match;
  - b) prepare and submit a follow-up request for assistance in compliance with national law, including the legal assistance rules, if those data match; or
  - c) conduct record-keeping, as required or permitted by its national law.

The Party administering the file may process the data supplied to it by the querying Party during the course of an automated query in accordance with Articles 4 and 8 solely where

this is necessary for the purposes of comparison, providing automated replies to the query or record-keeping pursuant to Article 16. The data supplied for comparison shall be deleted immediately following data comparison or automated replies to queries unless further processing is necessary for the purposes mentioned under this Article, paragraph 3, subparagraphs (b) or (c).

#### **Article 15**

##### **Correction, blockage and deletion of data**

1. At the request of the supplying Party, the receiving Party shall be obliged to correct, block, or delete, consistent with its national law, data received under this Agreement that are incorrect or incomplete or if its collection or further processing contravenes this Agreement or the rules applicable to the supplying Party.
2. Where a Party becomes aware that data it has received from the other Party under this Agreement are not accurate, it shall take all appropriate measures to safeguard against erroneous reliance on such data, which shall include in particular supplementation, deletion, or correction of such data.
3. Each Party shall notify the other if it becomes aware that material data it has transmitted to the other Party or received from the other Party under this Agreement are inaccurate or unreliable or are subject to significant doubt.

#### **Article 16**

##### **Documentation**

1. Each Party shall maintain a record of the transmission and receipt of data communicated to the other Party under this Agreement. This record shall serve to:
  - a) ensure effective monitoring of data protection in accordance with the national law of the respective Party;
  - b) enable the Parties to effectively make use of the rights granted to them according to Articles 14 and 18; and
  - c) ensure data security.
2. The record shall include:
  - a) information on the data supplied;
  - b) the date of supply; and
  - c) the recipient of the data in case the data are supplied to other entities.
3. The record of the transmission of data shall be protected with suitable measures against inappropriate use and other forms of improper use and shall be kept for two years. After the conservation period, the record shall be deleted immediately, unless this is inconsistent with national law, including applicable data protection and retention rules.

**Article 17**  
**Data Security**

1. The Parties shall ensure that the necessary technical measures and organizational arrangements are utilized to protect personal data against accidental or unlawful destruction, accidental loss or unauthorized disclosure, alteration, access or any unauthorized form of processing. The Parties in particular shall take the necessary measures to ensure that only those authorized to access personal data can have access to such data.
2. The implementing agreements or arrangements that govern the procedures for automated querying of fingerprint and DNA files pursuant to Articles 4 and 8 shall provide:
  - a) that appropriate use is made of modern technology to ensure data protection, security, confidentiality and integrity;
  - b) that encryption and authorization procedures recognized by the competent authorities are used when having recourse to generally accessible networks; and
  - c) for a mechanism to ensure that only permissible queries are conducted.

**Article 18**  
**Transparency – Providing information to the data subjects**

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to interfere with the Parties' legal obligations, as set forth by their respective laws, to provide data subjects with information as to the purposes of the processing and the identity of the data controller, the recipients or categories of recipients, the existence of the right of access to and the right to rectify the data concerning him or her and any further information such as the legal basis of the processing operation for which the data are intended, the time limits for storing the data and the right of recourse, in so far as such further information is necessary, having regard for the purposes and the specific circumstances in which the data are processed, to guarantee fair processing with respect to data subjects.
2. Such information may be denied in accordance with the respective laws of the Parties, including if providing this information may jeopardize:
  - a) the purposes of the processing;
  - b) investigations or prosecutions conducted by the competent authorities in the United States of America or by the competent authorities in the Republic of Croatia; or
  - c) the rights and freedoms of third parties.

**Article 19**  
**Information**

Upon request, the receiving Party shall inform the supplying Party of the processing of supplied data and the result obtained. The receiving Party shall ensure that its answer is communicated to the supplying Party in a timely manner.

**Article 20**  
**Relation to Other Agreements**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or prejudice the provisions of any treaty, other agreement, working law enforcement relationship, or national law allowing for information sharing between the United States of America and the Republic of Croatia.

**Article 21**  
**Consultations**

1. The Parties shall consult each other regularly on the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.
2. In the event of any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement, the Parties shall consult each other in order to facilitate its resolution.

**Article 22**  
**Expenses**

Each Party shall bear the expenses incurred by its authorities in implementing this Agreement. In special cases, the Parties may agree on different arrangements.

**Article 23**  
**Termination of the Agreement**

This Agreement may be terminated by either Party with three months' notice in writing to the other Party. The provisions of this Agreement shall continue to apply to data supplied prior to such termination.

**Article 24**  
**Amendments**

1. The Parties shall enter into consultations with respect to the amendment of this Agreement at the request of either Party.
2. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Parties at any time.

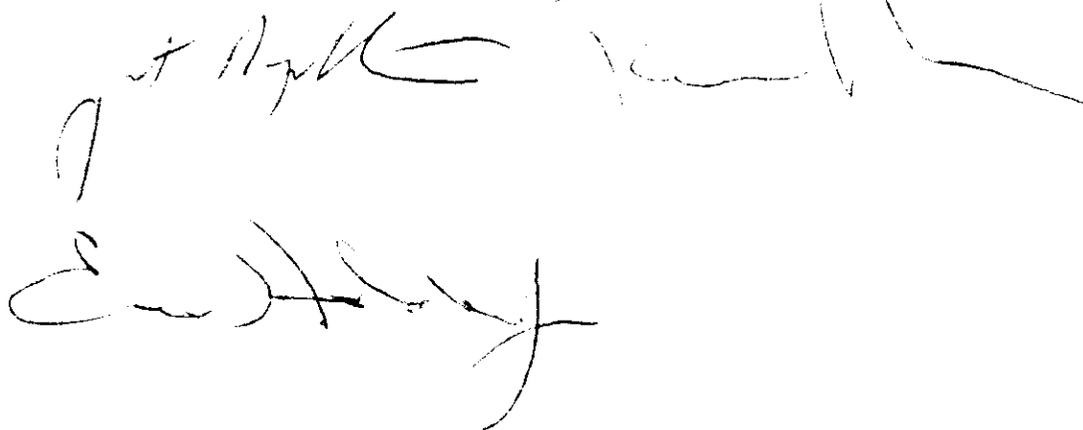
**Article 25**  
**Entry into force**

1. This Agreement, with the exception of Articles 8 through 10, shall enter into force on the date of the last written notification by which the Parties have informed each other, through diplomatic channels, that their internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been completed. This Agreement, with the exception of Articles 8 through 10, shall be provisionally applied by the Parties from the date of signature, to the extent consistent with their national law.
2. Articles 8 through 10 of the Agreement shall enter into force following the conclusion of the implementing agreement(s) or arrangement(s) referred to in Article 10 and on the date of the last written notification by which the Parties have informed each other, through diplomatic channels, that they are able to implement those Articles on a reciprocal basis. This notification shall occur if the laws of both Parties permit the type of DNA screening contemplated by Articles 8 through 10.

Done at *Washington*, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of *February*, 2011, in duplicate, in the English and Croatian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of  
the United States of America:

For the Government of  
the Republic of Croatia:

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The signature on the left is for the United States of America, and the signature on the right is for the Republic of Croatia. Both signatures are written in dark ink and are somewhat stylized.