AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR SHORT STAYS FOR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS HOLDERS

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

Hereinafter individually referred to as the "Contracting Party" and jointly as the "Contracting Parties"

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the interest shown by both countries in strengthening their friendly relations, and

DESIRING to facilitate the entry of the citizens of the Republic of India and of the Italian Republic, holders of diplomatic passports, in the respective countries,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Exemption from visa

The citizens of one of the Contracting Parties, holders of a valid diplomatic passport, not accredited to the other Party's territory, will be exempted from visa obligation concerning entry, transit, stay and exit from the other Party's territory upto ninety (90) days (in one or more periods), within one hundred eighty (180) days with effect from the first entry. For Indian citizens, the period of ninety days (90) shall start from the date of entry into the Schengen area

ARTICLE 2

Visas for accreditation

- The Citizen of one of two Contracting Parties, who is posted as a member of the diplomatic and consular staff to Diplomatic-Consular Missions or as a representative of his/her country to an international organization with offices in the territory of the other Contracting Party and holds a valid diplomatic passport, will have to obtain the visa prior to the entry into the territory of the other Contracting Party.
- The holders of diplomatic passports of one of the two Contracting Parties who have been employed by an international organization, body, agencies or any other similar entity, will have to hold a visa before they enter the territory of the other Contracting Party on official or private visits.
- The conditions listed at paragraph 1 of the present Agreement shall apply also to the spouse of a member of the Diplomatic-Consular Mission or representatives of international organizations, to their children and dependent parents.

ARTICLE 3

Rejection of Entry & Loss of Passport

- 1. Each Contracting Party reserves the right to refuse entry into, or shorten the stay in its own territory, of any citizen of the other Contracting Party, who has been declared undesirable.
- 2. If a citizen of one of the Contracting Parties loses the passport on the territory of the other Contracting Party, he/she will have to inform the concerned authorities of the host country in order to fulfil the required procedure. The concerned Diplomatic-Consular Mission shall issue a new passport or travel document to its citizen and inform the concerned authorities of the host country.

ARTICLE 4

Enforcement of national laws

- 1. The citizens of both the Contracting Parties, holders of diplomatic passports, shall abide by the laws and regulations of the other Contracting Party while crossing the frontier and for the entire duration of stay on its territory.
- 2. The present Agreement shall not modify the rights and obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations dated 18 April, 1961 or under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations dated 24 April, 1963.

ARTICLE 5

Validity of passports

The diplomatic passports of citizens of both contracting parties, who are exempt from visa obligation for short stays under the present Agreement will have a validity of at least 6 (Six) months from the date of entry into the territory of the other party.

ARTICLE 6

Travel Documents

- 1. In accordance with the present Agreement, each Contracting Party shall forward to the other, through diplomatic channels, the specimens of respective passports, along with a detailed description of documents currently in use, within thirty (30) days from the date of entry into force of the present Agreement.
- In case a new passport is introduced or in case of modification of the existing one, the contracting parties will reciprocally send, through diplomatic channels, the specimens of these passports, along with a detailed description of the same documents, within thirty (30) days from the date of entry into force of the new passports or of the modifications.

ARTICLE 7

Suspension

Each Contracting Party reserves the right to temporarily suspend, in whole or in part, for reasons of security, public order or public health, the implementation of the present Agreement. The suspension shall become effective at the time of notice to the other contracting party through diplomatic channels. The suspension shall not affect the rights of citizens who have already entered the territory of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 8

Revisions and Amendments

Either Contracting Party may request in writing, through diplomatic channels, for a revision or modification, in whole or in part, of the present Agreement. Any revision or modification, agreed upon by the Contracting Parties, shall enter into force and become part of the present Agreement according to the provisions concerning entry into force provided for in Article 11 below.

ARTICLE 9

Settlement of disputes

Any disagreement or dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of the Articles of the present Agreement shall be resolved in a friendly manner through consultations or negotiations between the Contracting Parties, through diplomatic channels

ARTICLE 10

<u>Compliance with international obligations of the Parties and with Italy's participation in the EU</u>

The disposition of the present Agreement shall be implemented in compliance with respective national laws and international obligations and, as far as Italy is concerned, with those deriving from being a member of the European Union.

ARTICLE 11

Entry into force, duration And withdrawal

The present Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of receipt of the second of the two notices by which the Contracting Parties shall officially convey the completion of the internal ratification procedures required at their end.

The present Agreement shall enter into force for an open-ended period and may be terminated by one of the Contracting Parties by written notice through diplomatic channels that will become effective ninety (90) days from the date of notice. The termination shall not affect the rights of citizens who have already entered the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Signed in Rome on 29th Day of May 2017 in two (2) original copies, each in Hindi, Italian and English, all equally certified. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

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