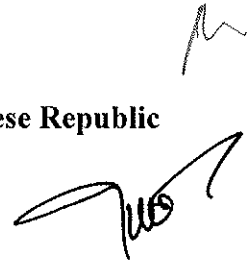


PROTOCOL OF CO-OPERATION
between the
Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education of the Portuguese Republic
and the
Ismaili Imamat
on Science and Technology



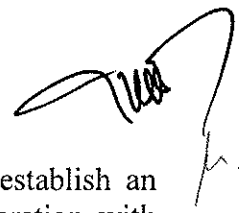
May 2016

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education of the Portuguese Republic and the Ismaili Imamat, hereinafter referred to as “Signatories”, considering:

- The increasing diplomatic relationship between the Portuguese Republic and the Ismaili Imamat, as foreseen in the Agreement between the Portuguese Republic and the Ismaili Imamat for the Establishment of the Seat of the Ismaili Imamat, done in Lisbon on the 3rd June 2015;
- The long term effort of the Ismaili Imamat to foster the welfare of people in Africa, as well as the large experience of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in building scientific and technical research and in strengthening the quality of life (QOL) in Africa;
- Having in mind the Global Science Agenda, launched by Fundação para Ciência e a Tecnologia (Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, FCT) in 2009, as well as the establishment in Lisbon of the International Centre for Advanced Training of Scientists from Portuguese Speaking Countries, both aimed to enhance and strengthen scientific skills and capabilities, in a framework of sustainable international scientific co-operation;
- Considering the current intention of the Portuguese Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education to launch in 2016, through FCT, a new Initiative on Knowledge for Development – IKfD, based on a set of actions and measures to steer and broaden academic, scientific and technological co-operation with developing countries and regions, as well as to foster research and knowledge diffusion among Portuguese speaking countries and other countries in Africa and the developing nations;
- Recognizing the joint interest of the Government of Portugal and the Ismaili Imamat to foster the welfare of people in Portuguese-speaking countries and elsewhere in Africa and in building scientific and technical research towards advances in the QOL in Africa,

Decide as follows:

CLAUSE 1
Objective



The objective of this Protocol of Co-operation is to jointly launch and establish an initiative aimed to advance academic, scientific and technological co-operation with developing countries and regions by promoting research capacity, targeting established and promising researchers, addressing timely topics of global importance, encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration, and securing resources of sufficient amount and duration to permit meaningful impact in those countries and regions.

CLAUSE 2
Terms of co-operation

1. The co-operation is launched through a 10 (ten) year commitment to underwrite a portfolio of competitive and collaborative research grants, with durations to be established as adequate, but normally from 2 (two) to 5 (five) years, with emphasis on building scientific capacity in Portugal and selected Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.
2. Invitations to apply for such grants related to one or more dimensions of QOL will be extended to joint research teams from Portugal, the AKDN and/or Africa, and the applications will be judged according to independent peer review.
3. The co-operation will consider the organization of Advanced Studies Workshops and High Level International Conferences, if relevant to and as part of the funded projects.
4. The Signatories decide that the Portuguese Signatory can delegate to FCT any and all of its commitments under this Protocol. Equally, the Ismaili Imamat can delegate to one or more of the AKDN entities its commitments under this Protocol.

CLAUSE 3
Scientific Areas for Collaborative Research

1. Topics eligible for Collaborative Research should emphasize emerging issues under the QOL umbrella, including, but not limited to, food security and biodiversity, early childhood development, habitat, sustainable energy systems and urban development, poverty alleviation, and resettlement of migrants, civil society and pluralism.
2. Specific proposals may be developed, subject to peer review, to foster research on the Portuguese archives of Indian Ocean migration and trade, which could benefit QOL by enriching understanding of cultural and economic history and pluralism.
3. Translational and clinical medical research will be considered through target actions and field research in Africa in such areas as neurosciences and cancer.

CLAUSE 4

Criteria for judging grant applications for Collaborative Research



1. Criteria for judging grant applications include 7 items, as follows:
 - i) The relevance of the research question;
 - ii) The quality of the content of the research plan and the degree to which it builds research capacity in Africa, where applicable;
 - iii) The competence and record of success of the researchers committed to the work;
 - iv) The level of mutual participation offered between Portuguese researchers and those in African and AKDN institutions;
 - v) The appropriateness of the budget proposed;
 - vi) The feasibility of producing within five years results that could have a meaningful impact in Africa and be applicable elsewhere in developing countries and regions;
 - vii) The participation of Portuguese speaking African countries.
2. Grant applications shall identify the principal investigator and the institutions involved in Portugal, Africa and the AKDN, shall specify the amount of grant support sought and shall describe all the items mentioned above, including the existing resources and expertise that will contribute to the success of the research.
3. It is foreseen that, in order to maximize the probability of important accomplishments from the research, grants ranging from 100.000 (one hundred thousand) euros up to as much as 2 (two) million euros, over 2 (two) to 5 (five) years, will be awarded.
4. In order to be funded, projects must consider the ultimate goal of building scientific capacity in Africa and should include setting up mechanisms and practical instruments that foster the creation of networks of scientists and researchers for knowledge.

CLAUSE 5

Financial commitment of the Ismaili Imamat

1. The financial commitment of the Ismaili Imamat to the co-operation foreseen in this Protocol is of 10 (ten) million euros over 10 (ten) years, to be channeled to research projects through the FCT.
2. The financial commitment will be made through periodic payments as required according to budgets of the research grants approved.
3. If additional funds are judged to be needed, they may be sought through the best efforts of the Portuguese Signatory and the Ismaili Imamat to elicit participation from the FCT, other agencies, foundations and individuals interested in QOL in Africa and institutional support from universities in Portugal, Africa and the AKDN whose faculty participate in the research.

4. The FCT will issue annual reports of all investments and expenditures for this initiative. Such reports will be subject to review in advance by the Ismaili Imam or its designee.

CLAUSE 6

Establishment of Joint Research Assessment Committee for Collaborative Research

1. The Signatories will establish a Joint Research Assessment Committee, composed by their designees, with a panel of scientists with experience in QOL in Africa.
2. The Joint Research Assessment Committee will be responsible for the call for proposals, assessment of grant proposals and award of grants, according to the terms mentioned in Clause 4 above. Announcement of grant awards will typically be made by the Portuguese Signatory or its designee.
3. The Joint Research Assessment Committee will set up mechanisms to continuously review the grantees' research progress over the course of the projects.
4. The administrative support for the Joint Research Assessment Committee and the administration of the grants will be provided by FCT.

CLAUSE 7

Planning and Implementation: Establishing a Joint Implementation Committee

1. A Joint Implementation Committee of an equal number of designees from the appropriate AKDN entities and the FCT will be established to guarantee its implementation, in the following terms:
 - i) The Joint Implementation Committee will start its operation by assembling information on current research strengths in Portuguese universities regarding QOL and Africa. This work could be enhanced by the efforts of one or more volunteers for information collection;
 - ii) The Joint Implementation Committee should then propose a process that would be followed by the Joint Research Assessment Committee for soliciting and judging grant proposals, consistent with the principles outlined in this Protocol, and monitoring their progress. The advice of the staff of the appropriate AKDN entities should be sought regarding the characteristics of the process and the result that might elicit interest from potential funders;
 - iii) The Joint Implementation Committee will have a follow up meeting at least twice a year and will produce an annual evaluation report, during the entire duration of the Protocol.
2. The first implementation target is that the first formal announcements and call for research proposals will be made in Lisbon before 1 October 2016, to be followed by a review process before the end of 2016 and the potential starting of the first set of projects in early 2017.

3. The Portuguese Signatory and the FCT should meet as needed in Portugal with the appropriate AKDN entity to consult on the establishment of this initiative and the progress of the work achieved.

2017

CLAUSE 8
Changes

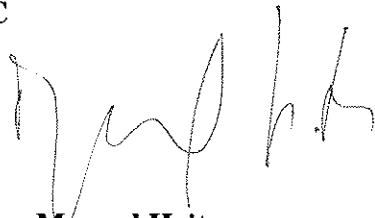
This Protocol may be changed by the Signatories by written mutual consent.

CLAUSE 9
Entry into effect

1. This Protocol shall come into effect on the date of its signature for a period of 10 (ten) years.
2. This Protocol shall cease to have effect on the date on which either Signatory gives written notice to the other Signatory of its intention to terminate it
3. The cessation of effects of this Protocol shall not affect the grants already awarded by the Joint Research Assessment Committee under this Protocol, which shall continue to be financed as previously agreed, subject to the total funding ceiling of 10 (ten) million euros stated in Clause 5.

Signed in Lisbon, on 12 May 2016, in two original and identical copies both in the Portuguese and English languages.

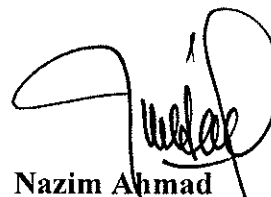
FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND HIGHER
EDUCATION OF THE PORTUGUESE
REPUBLIC



Manuel Heitor

The Minister of Science, Technology and
Higher Education

FOR THE ISMAILI IMAMAT



Nazim Ahmad

The Representative of the Ismaili
Imamat to the Portuguese Republic