

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
AND
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the Department of Justice of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as the Participants;

Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of mutually beneficial and equitable cooperation,

Proceeding from the mutual interest in countering illicit trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances (hereinafter referred to as "drugs"), and their analogues and precursors, with strict respect for the sovereignty of the States of the Participants and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs,

Acknowledging that the illicit trafficking of drugs, their analogues and precursors, along with their abuse, present a serious threat to the health and well-being of the population of the States of the Participants,

Recognizing the close links between transnational crimes, including in some cases, between drug trafficking and terrorism,

Expressing their readiness to cooperate consistent with generally recognized principles and norms of international law,

Each Participant, acting in accordance with its national legislation and within its authorities, will endeavor to cooperate in the following manner:

**Article 1
Objectives**

The Participants under this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter "Memorandum"), while acting within their areas of competence and consistent with the national legislation and international commitments of their countries, will endeavor to cooperate in the fight against illicit drug trafficking, their analogues and precursors, as well as related money laundering offenses flowing from these criminal activities.

This non-binding Memorandum regarding sectoral cooperation is not intended to contradict mutual legal assistance provisions of multilateral treaties with mutual legal assistance provisions to which both the United States of America and the Republic of Armenia are parties.

Article 2

Cooperation

For the purpose of implementing this Memorandum, the Participants intend to cooperate in the following areas:

1) Exchanging operational information and analysis of information of mutual interest within the framework of cooperation discussed in Article 1 of this Memorandum;

2) Engaging in bilateral actions (operations) intended to reduce the movement of illicit drugs, their analogues and precursors, in international channels, including participation in international controlled deliveries when appropriate;

3) Informing each other about national laws and legislation, including information about changes and amendments, related to investigating and prosecuting drug trafficking offenses;

4) Providing, when appropriate, necessary quantities of substances for analytical or investigative purposes;¹

5) Providing assistance to strengthen mutual cooperation to prevent and counter the illicit flow of money linked to drug trafficking, drug analogues, and precursor chemicals;

6) Engaging in formal and informal meetings, conferences, training and other events related to professional development of personnel;

7) Promoting international cooperation in responding to NPS (new psychoactive substances) and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

8) Developing additional ways to cooperate consistent with this Memorandum, or developing additional arrangements.

Article 3

Development of Cooperation

The Participants expect that this Memorandum will not prevent them from engaging in other mutually acceptable activities and ways of cooperation consistent with the provisions of Article 1 of this Memorandum.

¹ As specified by the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988, Article 9.

Article 4

Information Exchange

Information exchange under this Memorandum includes, but is not limited to, information about the following:

- 1) Sources of drug supply, their analogues and precursors, for illicit drug trafficking and the methods used to stop their distribution;
- 2) Ways drug traffickers conceal drugs in transportation, as well as law enforcement methods of detection;
- 3) Specific facts and investigations related to illegal movement, or plans for the illegal movement of drugs, their analogues and precursors, from the territory of other countries to the territory of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) Facts, incidents and circumstances related to illicit trafficking of drugs, their analogues and precursors, laundering proceeds derived from such activities;
- 5) Routes of transportation of drugs, their analogues and precursors;
- 6) New types of drugs, their analogues, and precursors;
- 7) Ways and methods of laundering proceeds derived from illicit trafficking in drugs, their analogues and precursors;
- 8) Types of illicit substances, technologies for their production and new methods of their use in illicit trafficking, including drug crimes committed using computer technologies and the Internet;
- 9) Other issues of mutual interest that will not contradict the Armenian Law "On State and Official Secrets".

Article 5

Request for Assistance

The Participants intend to implement cooperation in connection with this Memorandum based either on a request for assistance from a Participant, or upon initiative of a Participant that assumes that such assistance is of interest to the other Participant.

Requests for assistance ordinarily will be submitted in writing. In urgent cases requests may be transmitted orally, but are expected to be confirmed in writing, which may include via email or similar electronic means.

In case there is doubt regarding the reliability or content of a request, an additional confirmation may be requested.

A request for assistance is expected to contain:

- 1) Title of the official, designation of the Participant, requesting the assistance;

- 2) Presentation of the merits of the request;
- 3) Indication of the purpose and a justification for the request;
- 4) Description of contents of the requested assistance;
- 5) Any other information that will not contradict the law "On State and Official Secrets" and which may be referenced for the proper execution of the request.

The Participants intend to timely fulfill the requests of the other Participant. The reasonable time to respond to a request is expected not to exceed 30 days, unless the request specifies a different period.

If it is not possible to execute or timely execute a request for assistance, the Participant receiving the request will endeavor to inform the other Participant promptly about the reasons for the declination or for the delay and the anticipated time to fulfill the request.

Either Party may partially or completely decline to execute a request consistent with Section 6 of this Memorandum.

This Memorandum is not intended to cover or address the issues of extradition of individuals or the formal provision of mutual legal assistance in criminal cases, including pursuant to authorities expressly authorizing the provision of such assistance.

Article 6

Refusal in Assistance

The Participants acknowledge that either Participant may partially or completely refuse to execute the activities discussed in this Memorandum, or restrict execution to certain conditions, if, in its opinion, cooperation may negatively affect the security or interests of its state, contradict national legislation or international commitments, violates human rights or for any other reason it deems appropriate.

A Participant that declines to execute activities under this Memorandum will endeavor to notify the other Participant in writing about the reasons for such declination as promptly as reasonably possible.

Article 7

Limited use of the received information and documents

The Participants intend to maintain the confidentiality of information received under this Memorandum.

The Participants undertake not to use information, items and documents

received on the basis of this Memorandum for purposes other than those stated in the original request, and also undertake not to transfer such information, items and documents to a third-party without the prior written consent of the Participant that provided the information, item or documents. After receiving written consent, the Participant is expected to ensure that the other third party has the authority to receive documents containing confidential information.

The Participants may conduct mutual exchange of information, materials and information located in their respective databases.

As appropriate, the Participants may further mutually decide on specific conditions and rules for the use of information or materials related to operational and investigative information activities carried out bilaterally.

Article 8

Coordination of Cooperation and Language

For the purposes of implementing this Memorandum, the Participants are expected to provide each other with information on the units or persons responsible for coordination of cooperation in compliance with the requirements of the Armenian Law "On Personal Data Protection" and immediately notify each other of any changes in their names, competences and contact details.

Within the framework of cooperation under this Memorandum, English and Armenian languages may be used, unless the Participants indicate otherwise, on a case-by-case basis.

Article 9

Disclosure

In the United States, this Memorandum is exempt from public disclosure under the United States Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Article 10

Expenses

Each Participant is expected to be responsible for its own expenses related to implementation of this Memorandum within the framework of the budget allocated by the national legislations of the country for the Participant, unless the Participants determine otherwise, on a case by case basis in specific matters

Article 11

Resolution of Disputes

The Participants expect to resolve any disputes between them that occur in connection to interpretation or application of the provisions of this Memorandum through consultation and discussion.

Article 12

Modifications

At the initiative and mutual consent of each Participant, changes and amendments can be made to this Memorandum, which are intended to be compiled in the form of separate protocols and take effect in accordance with the procedure established for this Memorandum.

Article 13

Relation to International Agreements

This Memorandum, regarding sectoral cooperation, is not an international treaty and is not legally binding, and is not intended to affect the rights or obligations of the Participants derived from other international agreements to which the Participants or their countries are parties.

Article 14

Inception and Discontinuation of this Memorandum

This Memorandum should become effective upon last signature by the authorized representative of both Participants and will remain in effect for an indefinite period.

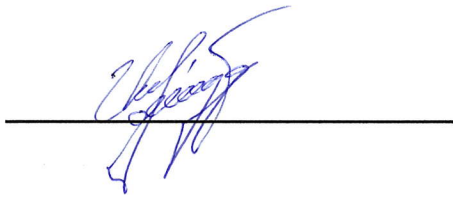
A Participant that wishes to discontinue its participation under this Memorandum is expected to provide 30 days' written notice to the other Participant of its intent.

Signed, in two original copies, this 14th day of February 2024, in English and Armenian languages.

All texts are equally authentic.

**For the Investigative Committee
of the Republic of Armenia**

**Deputy Chairman of the RA
Investigative Committee
Arsen Ayvazyan**



**For the Drug Enforcement
Administration of the Department
of Justice of the United States of
America**

**Special Agent in Charge
Middle East Division
Michael Rzepczynski**

