

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
ON THE PREVENTION OF THEFT, ILLEGAL EXCAVATION AND
ILLCIT IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF
CULTURAL PROPERTY AND ITS RESTITUTION TO ITS COUNTRY OF
ORIGIN

The Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Hellenic Republic, hereinafter - "The Parties",

RECOGNIZING that the cultural heritage of each country is unique and the property of each nation and that it must therefore be adequately protected;

EMPHASIZING that cooperation between the Parties shall contribute to the preservation and conservation of the cultural heritage of both nations and the cultural heritage of humankind;

COMMITTED to contributing to the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and to preventing its illicit transfer;

IN ACCORDANCE with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and its Operational Guidelines, to which both States are parties and recalling the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations and UNESCO bodies; including General Assembly Resolution A/RES/79/133, of 6 December 2024, on the Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the Countries of Origin and General Assembly Resolution A/RES/79/1, of 22 September 2024, on the Pact for the Future, in particular Commitment 15 of the Declaration on Future Generations, encouraging strengthened international cooperation on the return or restitution of cultural properties of spiritual, ancestral, historical and cultural value to countries of origin,

including but not limited to objets d'art objects d'art, monuments, museum pieces, manuscripts and documents;

EMPHASIZING that the illegal excavation and illicit import, export, transit or transfer of ownership of cultural property destroy the unique value and context of the object and cause serious harm to places of archaeological, historical and cultural importance;

CONSIDERING that organized crime is involved in the trafficking of cultural property and that cooperation between the Parties in the field of the prevention of the theft, illegal excavation and illicit import, export, transit or transfer of ownership of cultural property and the promotion of its restitution or return serves as an effective means to preserve the identity of each nation;

Have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE I

The Parties agree to take the necessary measures concerning the fight against the theft, illegal excavation and illicit import, export transit or transfer of ownership of cultural property, in accordance with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, international conventions to which both of them are parties and their respective national legislation.

ARTICLE II

The Parties consider the term "cultural property" to include, inter alia, archaeological, paleontological, artistic, historical and cultural property belonging to their cultural heritage. Annex I and II to this Agreement include the reference list of cultural property defined under the legislation of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Armenia, respectively.

ARTICLE III

1. The Parties shall exchange information through the mechanisms established for such purpose on cases or incidents of theft, illegal excavation and illegal import,

export, transit or transfer of ownership and seizures, auctions and sales of cultural property which are of interest to the other Party.

2. The Parties shall exchange information available to their national services and administrations, including the police and custom authorities, regarding the illegal trafficking of cultural property to the extent made possible by the national rules of the confidentiality of the procedures.

3. The Parties shall distribute all information regarding stolen or illegally trafficked cultural property to their respective customs and police authorities in ports, airports and borders to contribute to their early detection and facilitate the identification and application of the pertinent preventive and remedial measures.

4. The Parties shall pursue and strengthen the exchange and training of personnel on a regular basis in the field of the prevention of illegal movement, restitution and return of cultural property to their countries of origin. This training shall include, but shall not be limited to, aspects of cultural property markets, the import and export of cultural property, legislation and law drafting, information collecting and coordination in international affairs. These activities of exchange and training of personnel shall be subject to the availability of resources of the participating institutions.

ARTICLE IV

1. The Parties shall assist each other to locate and retrieve cultural property which has been illegally removed from the territory of the Parties, in accordance with their laws, international conventions and agreements in force.

2. The request for the recovery and return of illegally removed cultural property shall be made through diplomatic channels and shall include the documentation supporting the claim.

3. Each Party shall prevent the entry into their respective territory of cultural property without the proper export authorization issued by the competent cultural authority of the other Party. Objects without such authorization shall be confiscated and this action shall be notified to the other Party through diplomatic channels. The Parties shall endeavour to verify in the Stolen Works of Art Database of the International Criminal

Police Organization ICPO-INTERPOL if such property is subject to a seizure application on the request of any of the member countries of the organization.

4. Both Parties shall exempt all cultural property recovered and returned pursuant to this Agreement from customs duties and other taxes in accordance with their applicable national legislation.

5. The requesting Party shall bear the costs related to the recovery and restitution of cultural property undertaken within the framework of this Agreement.

ARTICLE V

1. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Parties. Any such amendment shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article VII.

2. Any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement, shall be resolved amicably through consultations between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE VI

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic shall be the authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the last of the written notifications whereby the Parties inform each other, through diplomatic channels, about the completion of their respective internal legal procedures required for the entry into force of this Agreement. It shall remain in force for an indefinite period, unless either Party terminates it by giving a written notice to the other Party, through diplomatic channels, at least six (6) months prior to the intended date of termination.

ANNEX I

REFERENCE LIST OF CULTURAL OBJECTS DEFINED UNDER THE LEGISLATION OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

"Cultural Objects" shall mean testimonies of the existence and the individual and collective creativity of humankind.

"Monuments" shall mean cultural objects which constitute material testimonies belonging to the cultural heritage of the country and which deserve special protection on the basis of the following distinctions:

- i) "Ancient Monuments or Antiquities" shall mean all cultural objects dating back to prehistoric, ancient, Byzantine and post-Byzantine times up to 1830.
- ii) Archaeological Monuments shall also include caves and paleontological remains for which there is evidence that they are related to human existence.
- iii) "Recent Monuments" shall mean cultural objects dating from after 1830, which deserve protection due to their historical, artistic or scientific importance.
- iv) "Immovable Monuments" shall mean monuments which have been attached to and remain on the ground or on the seabed or on the bed of lakes or rivers, as well as monuments which are found on the ground or on the seabed or on the bed of lakes or rivers and cannot be removed without damage to their value as testimonies. Immovable monuments shall also include installations, structures and the decorative and other elements which form an integral part of monuments, as well as their surroundings.
- v) "Movable Monuments" shall mean monuments which are not immovable.
 - a) all monuments dating up to 1453
 - b) monuments dating after 1453 and up to 1830, which constitute finds from excavations or other archaeological research, or have been removed from immovable monuments as well as icons and other religious objects used for worship, dating from the same period
 - c) monuments dating after 1453 and up to 1830 which are not subject to subparagraph b and are classified as monuments due to their social, technical, folk, ethnological, artistic, architectural, industrial or in general historical or scientific significance

d) recent cultural objects more than one hundred years old which are classified as monuments due to their social, technical, folk, ethnological, artistic, architectural, industrial or in general historical or scientific significance and

e) recent cultural objects less than one hundred years old which are classified as monuments due to their particular social, technical, folk, ethnological, artistic, architectural, industrial or in general historical or scientific significance

VI. Ancient movable monuments referred to above in subparagraphs V (a) and V (b) are protected by law, without need for the issuance of any administrative act. Cultural objects referred to in paragraph V (c), (d) and (e) shall be classified as monuments, by a decision of the Minister of Culture, published in the Official Gazette.

VII. A decision of the Minister of Culture, published in the Official Gazette, may exceptionally classify as monuments categories of movable cultural objects of the same kind that present particular social, technical, folk, ethnological or in general historical, artistic or scientific interest, provided that they are rare, their identification is difficult and there is danger of being lost or damaged.

INDICATIVE CATEGORIES OF GREEK CULTURAL PROPERTY

A. Stone

1. Sculpture or reliefs, independent or removed whole or in fragments from immovable monuments. Likewise, structural and architectural elements of such monument.
2. Movable sculpture or reliefs.
3. Rock inscriptions.
4. Inscriptions.
5. Vessels and utensils.
6. Sarcophagi.
7. Weapons.
8. Tools/Devices, Weights and Anchors.
9. Seals.
10. Jewelry.
11. Household Items/Furniture.
12. Altars - Offering tables.

B. Metal

1. Sculptures or reliefs, independent or removed whole or in fragments from immovable monuments.
2. Movable sculptures or reliefs.
3. Vessels.
4. Jewelry.
5. Weapons.
6. Tools/Devices, Weights.
7. Inscriptions.
8. Seals.
9. Household items /Furniture.
10. Coins.
11. Medals.
12. Lead seals.
13. Objects of religious worship.
14. Utensils and objects of daily use.
15. Instruments.

C. Ceramic

1. Sculptures or reliefs, independent or removed whole or in fragments from monumental buildings. Likewise, structural and architectural elements of such monument.
2. Movable sculptures or reliefs.
3. Vessels.
4. Utensils.
5. Jewelry.
6. Tools/Devices, Weights.
7. Clay Inscriptions.
8. Seals.
9. Instruments.
10. Sarcophagi.

D. Bone - Ivory

1. Sculptures or reliefs, independent or removed whole or in fragments from immovable structures.
2. Jewelry/Personal items.
3. Tools/Instruments.
4. Seals.

E. Wood

1. Woodcarvings and reliefs, independent or removed whole or in fragments from immovable monuments.
2. Movable woodcarvings.
3. Personal items.
4. Furniture/Ecclesiastical items.
5. Icons and painted surfaces.

F. Glass

1. Vessels.

2. Jewelry/Personal items.
3. Objects of daily use and decorative items.
4. Ecclesiastical items.

G. Faience. Steatite. Alabaster. Semiprecious Stones and other

1. Sculptures.
2. Vessels/Objects of daily use.
3. Tools/Utensils.
4. Seals.
5. Jewelry/Personal items.
6. Furniture/Ecclesiastical items/Icons.

H. Fabric

Fabric including ecclesiastical items.

I. Scrolls - Parchments - Manuscripts - Books

1. Scrolls, Parchments, Manuscripts, Books, intact or in fragments, including ecclesiastical items.
2. Preparatory drawings (cartoons).

J. Paintings

Paintings independent or removed from immovable monuments, irrespective of materials of which they are made or on which they are painted.

K. Mosaics

Mosaics independent or removed from immovable monuments, including ecclesiastical, movable and immovable works.

ANNEX II

REFERENCE LIST OF CULTURAL OBJECTS DEFINED UNDER THE LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On export and import of cultural property", cultural property shall be the objects and works considered to be products of human life activities, which, irrespective of their creation, have an important archaeological, ethnographic, historical, religious, artistic and scientific significance.

Types of cultural property shall be the following:

- (1) historical objects, including those of memorable events relating to the life of the people, the development of the society and the state, the history of science and engineering, as well as those relating to the life and activities of outstanding persons (statesmen, political, public, cultural figures, national heroes), and family relics;
- (2) findings discovered as a result of archaeological studies and excavations, as well as historical-archaeological objects discovered during earthworks, construction, soil amelioration and other works;
- (3) artistic property, including:
 - (a) fully or partially hand-made images and pictures made by any means and of any materials;
 - (b) sculptures made of any material;
 - (c) artistic designs and combined structures (installations) made of any material;
 - (d) artistically designed objects of worship, including icons;
 - (e) carvings, reprints of engravings, lithographic prints and other imprints thereof;
 - (f) pieces of applied art, including artistic objects made of glass, clay, wood, iron, bone, fabric and other materials;
 - (g) works of traditional national crafts;

- (4) component parts and fragments of historical and artistic, including literary monuments;
- (5) component parts and fragments of handwritten and printed monuments of literary, historical or cultic value;
- (6) antique books either separate or in collection, and documents;
- (7) rare manuscripts and documentary monuments, archives, including sound recording, video recording, photo and film archives;
- (8) musical instruments;
- (9) postal stamps either separate or in collection, and other stamp materials;
- (10) antique objects — tools, ceramic items, inscriptions, coins, orders, medals, seals, weapons, as well as other objects envisaged for a collection;
- (11) botanical, zoological and geological collections and specimen; objects of mineralogical, anatomical and archaeological interest;
- (12) furniture, Gobelin tapestries, rugs, carpets, and national costumes;
- (13) ethnographic, anthropological materials and unpublished collections of folkloric materials; antique prints;
- (14) component parts and fragments of monuments of architectural and monumental art;
- (15) other objects, including copies of other historical, artistic, scientific or cultural value which are under state protection as historical and cultural monuments;
- (16) vehicles manufactured before 1951.

Done in *Athens* on *22 07 2025* in two originals each in the Armenian, Greek and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in the interpretation between texts in Armenian and Greek, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
OF REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

