

**DECLARATION on the principles guiding the co-operation between the  
Republic of Hungary and the Russian Federation regarding the  
guarantee of the rights of national minorities  
(November 11, 1992)**

The Republic of Hungary and the Russian Federation, heretofore the Parties,

Emphasising their common goal of creating democratic systems that, within the framework of a constitutional state, ensure all citizens the rights to fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms, to freely express their lawful interests and endeavour, to enjoy political pluralism, social tolerance and equality before the law, and to be protected legally as individuals and as groups,

Proceeding from the Agreement on friendly relations and co-operation between the Republic of Hungary and the Soviet Federal Socialist Republic of Russia signed on December 6, 1991,

Recognising that respect for and promotion of the rights of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (heretofore minorities) and the universally recognised components of human rights are significant factors of peace, justice, security, stability and democracy, and are required for the development of friendly relations and co-operation between States,

Expressing their concern with intolerant and discriminatory manifestations in numerous states, including the increase of acts of violence against persons belonging to these groups and ethnic cleansing,

Considering the activities of international forums and non-governmental organisations in this area, with special regard to the latest developments, namely, the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities embodied in the United Nations, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages open to signatures by the Council of Europe, and the establishment of the High Commissioner on Minorities recently initiated in the CSCE process,

Considering that there is a need for further development of international elaboration and codification in the sphere of minority rights,

Declare that the following principles form the foundation of the policies of the Parties in the area of the guarantee of minority rights:

1. The Parties undertake to consistently guarantee the exercise of the fundamental rights and liberties of minorities, both alone or in community with other members of their group, including their equality before law and the prohibition of discrimination.
2. The Parties undertake to improve the available international legal documents that provide the foundation for the measures adopted in given territories; moreover, they will investigate the possibilities of elaborating new international standards.

3. To this end, at existing international forums, the Parties shall cooperate in the uniform interpretation of available legal documents, and the improvement and more effective implementation of developing institutions and mechanisms.

4. Proceeding from the universal values of social peace and individual liberty, as well as the requirement to extensively guarantee these values, the Parties consider as their most significant task the establishment of the necessary conditions for the preservation and development of the national or ethnic, religious and linguistic identity of minorities. These measures shall serve the interests of the whole of society and shall not lead to encroachment on the rights of other citizens.

5. The Parties shall respect the right of each individual to freely determine his or her national affiliation and to practice the rights associated with this affiliation, proclaiming that this decision may not lead to any negative consequences for the individual. In this respect, the Parties note that in a democratic society, the above-mentioned self-definition individual and in community with other members of the group – may include possibilities such as the establishment of elected organs that deal with minority issues, local and autonomous administrative organs, and autonomies based on the territorial principle and other forms of minority self-rule, as well as other means of expression of legal interests within the constitutional framework of the democratic rule of law.

6. The Parties shall provide legal or other means of protecting the minorities from any activity – including propaganda – that may endanger the realisation of their rights or their identity, provoke the use of force or encourage the incitement of hatred, or engender or justify negative discrimination based on national affiliation.

7. The Parties deem it necessary to guarantee the unhindered exercise of the right of individuals to participate substantially in social life, as individuals or in community with others, through the establishment of independent social organisations and associations, in order that the minorities may protect and express their legal interests, and including their participation in all matters that are related to the safeguarding and development of their identity and the adoption and execution of decisions affecting their place of inhabitation.

8. The Parties declare the need for the realisation of the principle that state organs that deal with the issues of the nationalities and national minorities shall come about through democratic means and with the participation and consideration of the interests of the nationalities inhabiting the given territory, including the social organisations and associations that express their opinions.

9. The Parties deem as unacceptable those administrative, economic or other measures that are directed toward the forceful assimilation or alteration of the ethnic composition of the districts within the territories inhabited by minorities.

10. The Parties consider practical the adoption of necessary legal, administrative and other measures that aim at allowing the minorities to practice their right to use their native language in writing and orally and in their personal lives and in public, including the use of their national first and family names. Exercise of this right shall not affect the obligation of minorities to learn the official language or languages of the State.

11. The Parties shall respect the right of minorities to preserve and develop their cultural identity, including the preservation and maintenance of their particular cultural heritage.

12. The Parties shall respect the right of those members of a community of faith belonging to a minority to practice their religion; to obtain, own, produce and use the necessary religious materials in their native language; and to receive religious training in their native language.

13. The Parties shall respect the right of minorities both to protect and represent their fundamental rights and to freely access information in their native language, including the right to disseminate and exchange information and to receive state support according to the capacity of the State.

14. The Parties shall utilize all of its means within its reach to assist individuals belonging to minorities in establishing and maintaining relations with one another within their state and without discrimination, and also with the citizens of other states, with whom they share the same ethnic or national origins and cultural heritage.

15. The Parties confirm their intention to bilaterally, regionally and universally promote the international codification of national minority rights. They express their readiness to support such efforts within the framework of the United Nations and the CSCE.

16. In the interest of the application of the above-mentioned principles and the attainment of the objectives, the Parties shall co-ordinate their co-operation in various international forums, striving to establish extensive international consensus and to enforce peaceful instruments in conflict resolution.

17. Nothing in this Declaration shall be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any action in contravention to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, other international legal obligations, or the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, including the principle of the territorial integrity of States.

Signed in November 11, 1992 in Budapest, Hungary, in two copies, each in both Hungarian and Russian.

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