

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



SUPREME COURT



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR JUDICIAL COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

AND

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Rwanda and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Singapore (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”);

RECOGNISING the excellent bilateral relations between the Parties;

DESIRING to enhance cooperation between the Parties to promote the efficient administration of justice in their respective jurisdictions;

CONVINCED OF the value of close cooperation for mutual benefit in the field of the administration of justice;

RECOGNISING the principles of mutual respect for equality, exclusive jurisdiction and the sovereignty of each Party over its own areas of competence;

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:

PARAGRAPH 1

The Parties will continuously strengthen the levels of exchanges and expand the scope of cooperation between them within the limits of their respective functions and powers and the framework of friendly relations between them.

PARAGRAPH 2

Delegations from one Party may visit the other with a view to promoting regular exchanges and interactions between the Parties.

PARAGRAPH 3

1. The Parties will encourage cooperation in the form of exchanging experiences and discussing matters of common interest.
2. The Parties may work together to exchange experiences and discussions on matters such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Electronic case management system and administration;
 - b. Court-annexed mediation and out-of-court mediation;
 - c. Small claims procedures; and
 - d. Capacity building through online and face-to-face training, experiential learning and exchange programmes.

3. The Parties may, through mutual consultation, identify matters of common interest, and mutually agree, from time to time, to exchange experiences and discuss such matters of common interest in other areas of mutual concern.

PARAGRAPH 4

Where an international conference or seminar is held by one Party, the other Party will endeavour to send its representatives to attend such a conference or seminar.

PARAGRAPH 5

Each Party receiving a visiting delegation of the other Party will endeavour to provide such administrative and other forms of assistance as is permissible in the Parties' respective jurisdictions in making local arrangements for accommodation, transportation and other hospitalities for the visiting delegation of the other Party. Except when the Parties agree otherwise, each Party will be responsible for the expenses of international travel, accommodation, local transportation, medical and other costs and expenses of its own delegations visiting the other Party.

PARAGRAPH 6

The Parties will regularly exchange information on their respective judgments and cases concerning topics that are of mutual interest as mutually determined by both Parties from time to time through consultation.

PARAGRAPH 7

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") does not create any binding legal obligations on the Parties. Any disputes arising out of this MOU will be resolved by the Parties amicably through consultation based on the principles of mutual understanding and respect.

PARAGRAPH 8

1. This MOU shall commence on the date of this MOU and will continue to have effect for a period of three (3) years ("Initial Term"). This MOU will automatically renew for successive periods of three (3) years (each a "Renewed Term"), unless either Party gives the other Party a notice in writing of its intent for the MOU not to be renewed at least three (3) months before the end of the Initial Term or a Renewed Term.

2. Either Party may also terminate this MOU by giving the other Party six (6) months' notice in writing.
3. The termination or expiry of this MOU will not affect the implementation of activities which had already been agreed upon prior to the date of termination or expiry, or which are ongoing at the aforementioned date.
4. This MOU may be varied in writing and any such variation will be signed by both Parties.

SIGNED on the 19th day of April 2021.

For the Supreme Court of
The Republic of Rwanda



Dr. Faustin NTEZILYAYO
Chief Justice

For the Supreme Court of
The Republic of Singapore



Sundaresh MENON
Chief Justice