

**Agreement
Between
the United States of America
and
the Russian Federation
Regarding Cooperation in Adoption of Children**

The United States of America and the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding;

Recognizing the necessity to take appropriate measures to keep the child with his or her birth family, but where that is not possible, to place the child with a substitute family in the Country of Origin for the purposes of upbringing;

Recognizing that intercountry adoption of a boy or girl (hereinafter adoption) may offer the advantages of a permanent family to a child if a suitable family cannot be found for the child in the Country of Origin;

Recognizing that a child adopted in accordance with the procedures established by this Agreement should be provided with the same advantages and the same rights that are guaranteed to him or her as a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the Receiving Country (whichever applies);

Confirming that the adoption of children who are citizens of one Party by citizens of the other Party shall take place on the basis of respect for the

fundamental values and principles of each Party and taking into account the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child of November 20, 1989, and the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption of May 29, 1993;

Have agreed as follows:

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

For purposes of this Agreement, the terms used shall mean the following:

- 1) "Receiving Country" – the Party where the child habitually will reside or resides after his or her adoption.
- 2) "Country of Origin" – the Party of which a child is a citizen and where he or she habitually resides or resided before the adoption.
- 3) "Executive Body":

for the United States of America – the Department of State of the United States of America;

for the Russian Federation – the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

The Parties shall inform each other through diplomatic channels of a change of Executive Bodies.

4) "Regional Authority":

for the United States of America – an institution (a body or organization) of a state, territory, or tribe, or any other local government institution that performs functions related to placing children left without parental care in accordance with the domestic laws of the United States of America;

for the Russian Federation – an executive authority of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation that is entrusted with the functions of a regional operator of the governmental database regarding children left without parental care.

5) "Authorized Organization":

If the United States of America is the Receiving Country – an entity from the United States of America that is authorized to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in accordance with the domestic laws of the United States of America, and that has received authorization to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Russian Federation in accordance with the domestic laws of the Russian Federation and this Agreement;

If the Russian Federation is the Receiving Country – a governmental body or an organization of the Russian Federation that is authorized to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of a foreign state in accordance with the procedure established by the domestic laws of the Russian Federation, and that has received

authorization required in accordance with the domestic laws of the United States of America (if such authorization is required) to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the United States of America in accordance with this Agreement.

- 6) “Competent Authority that performs an inspection of the living conditions of prospective adoptive parents”:

for the United States of America – an entity authorized in accordance with the domestic laws of the United States of America to prepare a conclusion regarding the living conditions of the prospective adoptive parents;

for the Russian Federation – the guardianship and trusteeship body for the place of residence of the prospective adoptive parents.

- 7) “Competent Authority that issues a conclusion regarding the suitability and eligibility of prospective adoptive parents to adopt a child”:

for the United States of America – the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security;

for the Russian Federation – the guardianship and trusteeship body for the place of residence of the prospective adoptive parents.

- 8) “Competent Authority that issues a conclusion regarding the eligibility of the prospective adoptive parents to transfer the child from the Country of Origin to the Receiving Country”:

for the United States of America – the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security;

for the Russian Federation – the territorial branch of the Federal Migration Service for the place of residence of the prospective adoptive parents.

9) “Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption”:

for the United States of America – the state, territorial, tribal or other local court that has jurisdiction to make decisions regarding the adoption of the child;

for the Russian Federation – the Supreme Court of the Republic, the Krai or Oblast Court, the federal-level city Court, the Autonomous Oblast Court, or the Autonomous Okrug Court for the place of residence or location of the child being adopted.

10) “Competent Authority that monitors the living conditions and upbringing of the adopted child”:

for the United States of America – an Authorized Organization providing monitoring of the living conditions and upbringing of the adopted child at the place of residence of the adoptive parents and the adopted child;

for the Russian Federation – the guardianship and trusteeship body for the place of residence of the adoptive parents and the adopted child.

- 11) “domestic laws”:
for the United States of America – federal laws and regulations, and laws and regulations of the U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories and tribal authorities;
for the Russian Federation – the laws and regulations of the Russian Federation and constituent entities of the Russian Federation.
- 12) “territory” (as it pertains to the United States of America) – the territory included in the definition of “United States” in the Immigration and Nationality Act of the United States of America.

Article 2

1. In accordance with this Agreement, an adopted child shall enjoy with respect to the adoptive parents and their relatives and the adoptive parents shall enjoy with respect to the adopted children property and personal non-property rights and responsibilities in the Receiving Country that arise by virtue of the adoption, which are equal to the rights resulting from an adoption of a child who is a citizen of the Receiving Country.
2. This Agreement shall be applicable in those situations when:
 - a) a child under 18 years of age who is a citizen of one Party (the Country of Origin) and habitually resides in its territory is adopted in the territory of the Country of Origin and transferred to the Receiving Country by:

- i) both spouses who habitually reside in the territory of the other Party (the Receiving Country), and at least one of whom is a citizen of the Receiving Country, or
 - ii) an unmarried individual who habitually resides in the territory of the Receiving Country and who is a citizen thereof,
- (hereinafter adoptive parents), provided such adoption and transfer are permitted under the domestic laws of the Parties, and
- b) each prospective adoptive parent has met and become acquainted with the child in person before the decision about adoption of the child has been made by the Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption, and has personally participated in the decision-making procedure regarding the adoption of the child undertaken by the Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption.

Article 3

1. This Agreement is concluded for the purposes of ensuring that adoption of children from the United States of America to the Russian Federation and from the Russian Federation to the United States of America takes place with a view to ensuring the protection of the rights and best interests of the child.
2. The Parties shall cooperate with the goal of ensuring that adoption of children in accordance with this Agreement is based on the voluntary actions of the individuals involved in accordance with the Parties' domestic laws.

3. The Parties shall take appropriate measures provided for by their domestic laws to prevent and suppress illegal activities involving children being adopted, including activities related to deriving illegal income from the adoption, and to kidnapping, substitution, trafficking in children, exploiting child labor, sexual violence against children and sexual exploitation of children, and other activities that are contrary to the objectives of this Agreement.
4. The Parties proceed from the premise that this Agreement covers adoptions where the Country of Origin decides, in accordance with its domestic laws, that it is not possible to arrange for the upbringing of the children in their birth families and:
 - for the adoption of a child from the United States of America – when due consideration has been given to the possibilities for placement of the child with a family in the United States of America in accordance with its domestic laws;
 - for the adoption of a child from the Russian Federation – when it does not appear to be possible to settle him or her for upbringing or place him or her with a family that could provide for his or her upbringing or adoption in the Russian Federation in accordance with its domestic laws.

Article 4

1. The Executive Bodies shall cooperate with each other and facilitate the interaction of authorities and organizations of the Parties referenced in this Agreement.
2. The Executive Body of each Party (as a Receiving Country) shall provide in writing to the Executive Body of the other Party no less than once a year the following:
 - a) for the Russian Federation – a list of governmental bodies or organizations of the Russian Federation (with their names and other significant information) that are authorized to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of a foreign state in accordance with the procedure established by the domestic laws of the Russian Federation;
 - b) for the United States of America – a list of entities (with their names and other significant information) that are authorized in accordance with the domestic laws of the United States of America to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in accordance with the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption of May 29, 1993.
3. Each Party (as a Country of Origin) can establish that authorization to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin may be issued under this Agreement only to bodies or

organizations referenced under Subparagraph 2(a) of this Article, or to those entities referenced under Subparagraph 2(b) of this Article that are non-profit organizations (whichever applies).

The Executive Body of each Party (as a Country of Origin) shall notify the Executive Body of the other Party (as a Receiving Country) in writing of all decisions made in the Country of Origin regarding the issuance to bodies and organizations or entities of the Receiving Country (with their names and other significant information) of authorizations to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption under this Agreement as soon as this becomes possible after such a decision has been made.

4. The adoption of a child from the Russian Federation, in accordance with this Agreement, shall occur only with the assistance of an Authorized Organization, except as provided for in Paragraph 5 of this Article.
5. The adoption of a child by his or her relatives (who are recognized as such in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin) and his or her transfer with them to the Receiving Country may occur without the assistance of an Authorized Organization in accordance with the domestic laws of the Parties.

Article 5

1. The Executive Body of the Country of Origin may establish, in accordance with the procedure provided for by the domestic laws of that country, a

requirement for an Authorized Organization to submit the following documents in order to obtain or retain authorization to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin in accordance with this Agreement:

- a) A document confirming the obligations of the Authorized Organization to inform the prospective adoptive parents (including in the case of a dissolution of an adoption and/or placement of the child with another family if these procedures are carried out with the assistance of that organization) of the requirements regarding the adoption procedure in the Country of Origin and of required post-adoption actions, such as providing access to a representative of the Authorized Organization to monitor the living conditions and upbringing of the adopted child, submission of reports, and ensuring registration of the child with a consular establishment of the Country of Origin, and a document confirming that the prospective adoptive parents have been informed of these requirements.
- b) A document confirming the obligation of the Authorized Organization to monitor in accordance with domestic laws of the Country of Origin the living conditions and upbringing of the children who were adopted with its assistance in accordance with this Agreement and to present the corresponding reports to the Regional Authority of the Country of Origin about the living conditions and upbringing of the adopted child,

which contain reliable information about his or her psychological and physical development and adaptation to his or her new family and social environments in the period after the adoption and other information about the adopted child, in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin;

This document shall also confirm that the monitoring referenced in this subparagraph will be carried out directly by the Authorized Organization at the place of residence of the adoptive parents and the adopted child, or by another organization or individual that is granted the right in accordance with the domestic laws of the Receiving Country to monitor the living conditions and upbringing of adopted children at the place of residence of the adoptive parents and the adopted child, on the basis of a contract made with the Authorized Organization.

- c) A document confirming the obligation of the Authorized Organization, in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin, to provide information about the time of lawful entry to reside in the territory of the Receiving Country, of a child adopted in accordance with this Agreement and about his or her acquisition of citizenship of the Receiving Country.
- d) A document confirming the obligation of the Authorized Organization to present information about the registration of the adopted child

with the consular establishment of the Country of Origin by the adoptive parents, in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin.

e) A document confirming the obligation of the Authorized Organization to send written notice to the Regional Authority of the Country of Origin and the Executive Bodies of the Parties as soon as reasonably possible:

- i) of an adoption in which it provided assistance (including an adoption that took place before this Agreement entered into force) that is no longer in the best interests of the child and there is a need for dissolution of the adoption and/or placement of the child with another family;
- ii) of the dissolution in the Receiving Country of the adoption in which it provided assistance (including an adoption that took place before this Agreement entered into force), or of the placement of the child with another family;
- iii) of new prospective adoptive parents, and about the anticipated timeframe for a decision to be made about the new adoption of the child by the Competent Authority of the Receiving Country that makes a decision regarding adoption;

iv) of a decision on adoption of the child by the Receiving Country's Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption;

This document shall also confirm the obligation of the Authorized Organization to request the consent of the Executive Body of the Country of Origin to the adoption of the child by the new prospective adoptive parents, and, if such consent or non-consent is available before the decision is made by the Competent Authority of the Receiving Country that makes a decision regarding adoption, to present it to this Competent Authority.

- f) A document confirming the obligation of the Authorized Organization to inform in writing the Executive Body of the Country of Origin of the discontinuation by the Authorized Organization of its activities in the territory of the Country of Origin and/or in the territory of the Receiving Country.
- g) A document confirming the obligation of another Authorized Organization to fulfill, in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin and this Agreement, the obligations of an Authorized Organization in the event that the latter ceases its activities in the field of intercountry adoption.

2. The Executive Body of the Country of Origin shall inform the Executive Body of the Receiving Country of cases of non-compliance by an

Authorized Organization with the Country of Origin's domestic laws and any requirements established under Paragraph 1 of this Article. The Receiving Country shall consider such information and take appropriate measures subject to its domestic laws.

3. The Executive Body of the Receiving Country shall inform the Executive Body of the Country of Origin of any substantiated complaints it receives about, or sanctions or other measures it takes against, an Authorized Organization. The Executive Body of the Country of Origin shall consider that information and take appropriate measures subject to its domestic laws.
4. In the event an Authorized Organization is not complying with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin or is not fulfilling the conditions on which it received authorization referenced in Paragraph 1 of this Article, the Executive Body of the Country of Origin may, in accordance with domestic laws, suspend or terminate the authorization to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin in accordance with this Agreement. Where possible, the Executive Body of the Country of Origin shall send to the Executive Body of the Receiving Country advance written notice of suspension or termination of such authorization.

II. APPLICABLE LAWS

Article 6

1. The adoption and transfer of a child under this Agreement shall be carried out in accordance with the domestic laws of the Parties and the provisions of this Agreement.

The requirements for prospective adoptive parents shall be determined by the domestic laws of the Parties and the provisions of this Agreement.

2. The conditions under which a child may be adopted, the list of persons, organizations or bodies whose consent is required for the adoption, and also the form of such consent shall be determined by the domestic laws of the Country of Origin.
3. The decision regarding adoption of a child shall be made by the Country of Origin's Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption.

III. ADOPTION AND TRANSFER PROCEDURES

Article 7

Intercountry adoption and transfer of a child from the United States of America to the Russian Federation and from the Russian Federation to the United States of America within the scope of this Agreement shall take place in accordance with the procedures set forth in Articles 8-13 of this Agreement and the domestic laws of the Parties.

Article 8

1. Prospective adoptive parents who wish to adopt a child in accordance with this Agreement shall obtain, in accordance with the procedure provided for by the domestic laws of the Receiving Country, a written conclusion about their living conditions, which is issued by a Competent Authority of the Receiving Country that performs an inspection of the living conditions of prospective adoptive parents, and a written conclusion about their suitability and eligibility to adopt a child, which is issued by the Receiving Country's Competent Authority that issues a conclusion regarding the suitability and eligibility of the prospective adoptive parents to adopt a child.
2. The validity period of the conclusions specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article is established by the domestic laws of the Parties.

Article 9

The Country of Origin's domestic laws determine the following:

- a) The procedure for the prospective adoptive parents or an Authorized Organization to submit an application to adopt a child to the Country of Origin's Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption;
- b) The procedure by which the appropriate bodies and organizations in the Country of Origin provide information about the child to the prospective adoptive parents;

- c) The procedure for making a decision about adoption by a Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption.

Article 10

1. After the prospective adoptive parents have personally become acquainted with the child and have expressed their consent to adopt this child but before the decision on adoption of the child is made by the Country of Origin's Competent Authority that makes a decision regarding adoption, the Receiving Country's Competent Authority(ies) that issue(s) a conclusion regarding the suitability and eligibility of prospective adoptive parents to adopt a child and a conclusion regarding the eligibility of prospective adoptive parents to transfer a child to the Receiving Country from the Country of Origin shall, if required by the domestic laws of either Party:

- a) Review documentation submitted by the prospective adoptive parents that indicates that:

- i) The adoption and transfer are being carried out with the assistance of an Authorized Organization acting in accordance with the requirements specified in Paragraphs 1-4 of Article 4 of this Agreement;

- ii) The prospective adoptive parents have been duly informed of the requirements for completing the process of adoption in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin;

- b) Confirm that the prospective adoptive parents have received information and undergone all required psycho-social preparation with the assistance of the Authorized Organization or the Competent Authority that performs an inspection of the living conditions of the prospective adoptive parents, in accordance with the procedure established by the domestic laws of the Parties, taking into account the detailed information about the child's social situation and health, and his or her cultural and social environment in the Country of Origin; and that the conclusion regarding the suitability and eligibility of the prospective adoptive parents to adopt a child remains legally valid based on consideration of all information available about the child matched with the prospective adoptive parents, to include:
- i) All available information on the social situation of the child, and his or her medical history, and also, if available, all information about the social situation and health of all the child's family members (the Country of Origin shall take all possible measures to ensure access to such information);
 - ii) A description of any special needs of the child (defined as needs for accommodations, care or medical assistance related to special or disabling physical, mental or emotional conditions);

- iii) The documents that confirm that the child is available to be placed for adoption and that all requirements for obtaining the consent referenced in Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of this Agreement have been fulfilled;
 - iv) A detailed medical conclusion about the child's current state of health, including the results of a medical evaluation conducted by independent experts, if such an evaluation has been conducted at the initiative of the prospective adoptive parents;
- c) Issue a written preliminary conclusion about the eligibility of the prospective adoptive parents to transfer the child who is being adopted from the Country of Origin to the Receiving Country, and inform the prospective adoptive parents in writing about the results of the review of the documents presented with a view to the possibility to continue the procedure of adoption and transfer of the child who is being adopted to the Receiving Country.
2. In accordance with its domestic laws, the Country of Origin shall assist in the provision of the information referenced in this Article to the prospective adoptive parents as soon as reasonably possible after the time of receipt of the consent of the prospective adoptive parents to adopt the child.
 3. The need for the prospective adoptive parents to complete the procedures specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article may be established by the Executive

Body of the Country of Origin in accordance with the procedure provided for by the domestic laws of that country.

Article 11

1. After a decision by the Competent Authority of the Country of Origin that makes a decision regarding adoption of a child enters into legal force, the adoptive parents, if required in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin, shall be obligated to take the adopted child from the establishment or other place where he or she is staying and to bear full responsibility for the care of the child and for his or her upbringing.
2. In the event that the Competent Authority that issues a conclusion regarding the eligibility of the prospective adoptive parents to transfer the child from the Country of Origin to the Receiving Country denies the eligibility of the adoptive parents to transfer to the Receiving Country a child who has already been adopted, the Executive Body of the Receiving Country shall immediately inform the Executive Body of the Country of Origin thereof, which shall, in accordance with its domestic laws, take measures to protect the rights and best interests of the child.

Article 12

1. Documents sent by the Executive Bodies to each other shall be in the language of the Party that is sending the document.

2. If domestic laws of the Country of Origin require that foreign public documents related to the adoption be authenticated, an “Apostille” shall be placed on them in accordance with the Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents of October 5, 1961, if they fall under its scope. Documents that do not fall under the scope of this Convention shall be certified in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin. The translation of these documents from one language to another language shall be certified in accordance with the domestic laws of the Country of Origin.

Article 13

1. The decision on adoption of the child made by the Competent Authority of the Country of Origin that makes a decision regarding adoption shall be recognized by the Receiving Country.
2. A child adopted in accordance with this Agreement shall acquire the citizenship of the Receiving Country in accordance with the procedure established by the domestic laws of the Receiving Country, but no later than upon lawful entry to reside in the territory of the Receiving Country. He or she shall also retain the citizenship of the Country of Origin. Such child shall have the same rights and protections as any other adopted child who has the status of a citizen in the territory of the Receiving Country.

3. Before the acquisition by the adopted child of the citizenship of the Receiving Country, the Country of Origin shall exercise jurisdiction with respect to this child in accordance with the norms of international law.

IV. COOPERATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

Article 14

1. Issues associated with the dissolution of an adoption (including an adoption that took place before the entry into force of this Agreement) and/or the placement of the child with another family are decided in accordance with the applicable domestic laws of the Parties and this Agreement.
2. If the adoption is no longer in the best interests of the child and a need exists to dissolve that adoption and/or place the child with another family in the Receiving Country (including an adoption that took place before this Agreement entered into force), the Executive Bodies of the Parties as soon as reasonably possible shall consult with the goal of agreeing on appropriate measures that the Executive Body of each Party may take to safeguard the interests of the child. This consultation should take place before a decision on a placement of the child with another family is made.
3. With the goal of ensuring the protection of the rights and best interests of the child and creating favorable conditions for his or her harmonious development following the dissolution of an adoption, in the Receiving

Country measures are taken to place the child with another family that is appropriate for adopting this child.

4. The Executive Body of the Receiving Country shall take appropriate measures with the goal of ensuring that the Regional Authorities of the Receiving Country and/or the Competent Authorities that monitor the living conditions and upbringing of the adopted child:

a) inform the Regional Authority of the Country of Origin and the Executive Bodies of the Country of Origin and the Receiving Country:

i) before a decision on a new adoption, that the adoption is no longer in the best interests of the child and that a need exists to dissolve that adoption and/or place the child with another family (including adoptions that took place before this Agreement entered into force);

ii) about the dissolution of the adoption of a child in the Receiving Country;

iii) about new prospective adoptive parents;

iv) about the completion of the procedure of a new adoption.

b) after the dissolution of an adoption, inform the new prospective adoptive parents about the Country of Origin's requirements concerning the need for required registration of the child with a consular establishment of the Country of Origin, the monitoring of the

adopted child's living conditions and upbringing, and the submission of the corresponding reports and information about the child.

5. In the event that the Executive Bodies of the Parties become aware that in the best interests of the child it is essential to provide for the return of the child to the Country of Origin, the Executive Bodies of the Parties shall consult regarding such return and reimbursement of expenses associated therewith.
6. The decision about a new adoption in the territory of the Receiving Country shall be made by the Competent Authority of the Receiving Country that makes a decision regarding adoption in accordance with the domestic laws of the Receiving Country.

Article 15

1. The Parties shall undertake:
 - a) to share information of mutual interest about the domestic laws governing the institution of adoption, in particular, pertaining to the requirements for adoptive parents, and statistical data, and other information related to the procedure of adoption;
 - b) to inform each other regarding the implementation of this Agreement and to take appropriate measures to resolve difficulties that arise during its application.

2. The Executive Body of the Receiving Country shall undertake, subject to its domestic laws, to provide the Executive Body of the Country of Origin upon its written request with information regarding specific cases of adoption, including dissolution of adoption and/or placement of a child with another family. The Executive Body of the Country of Origin, in using the received information, shall ensure its confidentiality in accordance with its domestic laws.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 16

This Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of either Party under other international agreements to which it is party.

Article 17

1. This Agreement shall enter into force as of the date of the receipt of the final written notification, through diplomatic channels, that the Parties have fulfilled the internal governmental procedures necessary for entry into force of this Agreement.
2. If the Executive Body of the Country of Origin has established a requirement for submitting the documents provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 5 of this Agreement, bodies and organizations or entities of the Receiving Country which, at the time of entry into force of this Agreement, were performing

activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin shall, in order to continue carrying out these activities, be obliged to submit these documents to the Executive Body of the Country of Origin within 60 days from the day such a requirement is established. The Executive Body of the Country of Origin shall make a decision as to whether these bodies and organizations or entities will be permitted to continue to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin, no later than 30 days from the day of submission of the relevant documents in accordance with the procedure established by the domestic laws of the Country of Origin. Until the Executive Body of the Country of Origin makes such a decision, these bodies and organizations or entities may perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin in accordance with the procedure established by the domestic laws of that country.

3. If the Executive Body of the Country of Origin has the authority to make a decision about the issuance of authorization to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin, bodies and organizations or entities of the Receiving Country which, at the time of entry into force of the Agreement, were not performing such activities may, in order to obtain such authorization, submit an application and properly executed documents to the Executive Body of the Country of Origin at any time after entry into force of this Agreement. In this case, the Executive

Body of the Country of Origin shall make a decision about the issuance of authorization to perform activities in the field of intercountry adoption in the territory of the Country of Origin no later than 60 days from the day of submission of an application in accordance with the procedure established by the domestic laws of the Country of Origin.

4. Prospective adoptive parents whose documents were registered at a Regional Authority of the Country of Origin at the time of the entry into force of this Agreement shall have the right to complete the adoption procedure in accordance with the procedure which was in place prior to the entry into force of this Agreement. After the entry into force of this Agreement, the provisions in Articles 14 and 15, to the extent that they pertain to cases involving the dissolution of an adoption, will apply to adoptions about which decisions were made prior to the entry into force of this Agreement.
5. This Agreement shall remain in force until one year from the date that one of the Parties informs the other Party through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate this Agreement.
6. This Agreement may be amended with the written consent of the Parties.
7. Any disputes between the Parties related to the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved through negotiations between the Executive Bodies of the Parties. If the said Executive Bodies do not reach an agreement, the dispute will be resolved through diplomatic channels.

Done at Washington on July 13, 2011, in duplicate, each in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Hillary Rodham Clinton

FOR THE

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Sergey Lavrov