

## *Principles of Free Association between the United States and Puerto Rico*

1. An agreement of free association will be concluded on a government to government basis. During the life of the agreement, the political status of Puerto Rico shall remain that of free association, as distinguished from independence and commonwealth, and the Constitution of Puerto Rico shall be in accord with the political status of free association, as agreed by the parties. The agreement will be subject to the implementing authority of the United States Congress.
2. The agreement of free association will be put to a democratic vote of the people of Puerto Rico.
3. The people of Puerto Rico will enjoy full self-government, in accordance with democratic principles.
4. The United States will assist Puerto Rico in developing a self-sufficient economy, continuing its financial assistance to Puerto Rico through targeted grants, program assistance, and by means of a trust fund, which will be subject to mutually agreed planning, monitoring and reporting requirements.
5. Puerto Rico's public debt will be restructured, pursuant to a mutually agreed plan allowing for international financial mechanisms.
6. All persons born in Puerto Rico prior to the effective date of free association will retain their United States citizenship after free association comes into effect. Persons born in Puerto Rico thereafter will possess only Puerto Rican nationality, unless they are otherwise entitled to United States or other citizenship.
7. The United States shall have full authority and responsibility for security and defense matters in or relating to Puerto Rico, including the establishment of and maintenance of necessary military facilities and the exercise of appropriate operating rights. Specific land arrangements will remain in effect according to their terms which will be negotiated prior to the effective date of free association. Puerto Rico will refrain from actions which the United States determines after appropriate consultations to be incompatible with its authority and responsibility for security and defense matters in or relating to Puerto Rico.
8. Puerto Rico will have authority and responsibility for its foreign affairs, as a distinct member of the international community. The United States will support Puerto Rico's membership in the United Nations and other international organizations. Puerto Rico may seek foreign aid assistance. From time to time, as mutually agreed, the United States may act on behalf of Puerto Rico in the area of foreign affairs.
9. The agreement will permit unilateral termination of the free association political status by the process through which it was entered and set forth in the free association



agreement, and subject to the continuation of the United States' defense authority and responsibility set forth in Principle 7.

10. Should the free association political status of Puerto Rico be mutually terminated, United States economic assistance shall continue as mutually agreed. Should the United States unilaterally terminate the free association relationship, its economic assistance to Puerto Rico shall continue at the levels and for the term previously agreed. If the agreement is otherwise terminated, the United States shall no longer be obligated to provide the same amount of economic assistance for the remainder of the term previously agreed.

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