

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOR COOPERATION IN THE EXAMINATION OF REFUGEE STATUS  
CLAIMS FROM NATIONALS OF THIRD COUNTRIES**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"),

**CONSIDERING** that Canada is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva, July 28, 1951 (the "Convention"), and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York, January 31, 1967 (the "Protocol"), that the United States is a party to the Protocol, and reaffirming their obligation to provide protection for refugees on their territory in accordance with these instruments;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** in particular the international legal obligations of the Parties under the principle of non-refoulement set forth in the Convention and Protocol, as well as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York, December 10, 1984 (the "Torture Convention") and reaffirming their mutual obligations to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**RECOGNIZING** and respecting the obligations of each Party under its immigration laws and policies;

**EMPHASIZING** that the United States and Canada offer generous systems of refugee protection, recalling both countries' traditions of assistance to refugees and displaced persons abroad, consistent with the principles of international solidarity that underpin the international refugee protection system, and committed to the notion that cooperation and burden-sharing with respect to refugee status claimants can be enhanced;

**DESIRING** to uphold asylum as an indispensable instrument of the international protection of refugees, and resolved to strengthen the integrity of that institution and the public support on which it depends;

**NOTING** that refugee status claimants may arrive at the Canadian or United States land border directly from the other Party's territory where they could have found effective protection;

**CONVINCED**, in keeping with advice from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its Executive Committee, that agreements among states may enhance the international protection of refugees by promoting the orderly handling of asylum applications by the responsible party and the principle of burden-sharing;