

**CONSOLIDATED FIRST PROTOCOL TO THE MANO RIVER
DECLARATION**

INSTITUTIONS OF THE MANO RIVER UNION

WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE MANO RIVER UNION;

IN FURTHERANCE of the aims and objectives of the Mano River Union;

CONSEQUENT on the decision as recorded in the Eighth Article of the MANO RIVER DECLARATION;

RECOGNISING the need to establish and regulate the institutions of the Union;

DO HEREBY ESTABLISH THIS PROTOCOL TO THE DECLARATION:

FIRST, INSTITUTIONS

That the following Institutions of the Union are hereby established:

- a. The Union Summit of Heads of **State** and Government;
- b. The Union Ministerial Council;
- c. The Union Technical Commissions;
- d. The Union Secretariat; and
- e. Such other Organizations, bodies, departments and services as are provided for by the MANO RIVER DECLARATION and its PROTOCOLS as amended or by RESOLUTIONS of the Union Ministerial Council.

SECOND, That all Institutions of a joint nature shall carry the word UNION.

THIRD, That there is hereby established the Union Summit of Heads of

State and Government of the Member States which shall be the supreme institution of the Union.

FOURTH, That the Union Summit of Heads of State and Government shall be convened as and when they deem it necessary to deal with matters submitted to it by the Union Ministerial Council.

FIFTH, That the Union Ministerial Council shall consist of the Ministers responsible for Planning, Development, Economic Affairs, International Cooperation, Finance, Education, Trade, Industry, Agriculture, Transport, Communications, Energy, Natural Resources and Works in the Member States.

SIXTH, That other Ministries of Member States may attend Meetings of the Union Ministerial Council when matters of interest to them are on the Agenda.

SEVENTH, That in the event that a Minister is unable to attend a Meeting of the Union Ministerial Council, the Member State may designate another Minister to represent him at that meeting.

EIGHTH, That the functions of the Union Ministerial Council shall be:

- a. to ensure the proper functioning and the development of the Union in conformity with the provisions of the MANO RIVER DECLARATION; and it's PROTOCOLS as amended;
- b. to give directives to all subordinate institutions of the Union through the Secretariat so as to ensure the efficient and harmonious working of the Union;
- c. to make recommendations to the Union Summit of Heads of State and Government on matters of policy designed to effect the efficient and harmonious functioning and development of the Union;
- d. to establish financial policies, procedures, rules and regulations which shall govern the handling of the finances of the Union including but not limited to budget

procedures, expenditures and arrangements for auditing;

- e. to consider and approve the Annual Budget of the Union including but not limited to the Union Training and Research Establishments and to determine the contributions of each Member State thereto;
- f. to authorize the Secretariat or any other subordinate Institution to negotiate in all areas of cooperation with Member States, third countries and International Organizations or Institutions with the view to implementing the aims and objectives of the Mano River Union;
- g. to execute such other functions as the Union Summit of Heads of State and Government may from time to time direct.

NINTH, That the following Rules and Procedures for the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Union Ministerial Council are hereby established:

- a. The Chairman of the Union Ministerial Council shall be elected rotationally from each Member State and shall hold office until the following Ordinary Session of Council;
- b. The Chairman shall be elected from the Delegation of the Member State hosting the Session;
- c. The First Vice-Chairman of the Union Ministerial Council shall be elected from the Delegation of the Member State which is scheduled to host the next Session of the Union Ministerial Council whilst the Second Vice-Chairman shall emanate from the other Member State.

TENTH, That the Union Ministerial Council shall hold its Ordinary Session once a year. Additionally, Special Sessions may be convened as and when necessary on the decision of the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary-General.

ELEVENTH, That all decisions of the Union Ministerial Council shall be by consensus and such decisions shall be resolutions which:

1. make recommendations to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government;
2. make recommendations to Member States for certain actions to be taken;
3. give directives to the Secretariat and other subordinate Institutions.

TWELFTH: 1. That there shall be established the following Technical Commissions of the Union Ministerial Council which shall be responsible, respectively for:

- a. Trade and Industry;
- b. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
- c. Transport and Communications;
- d. Education, Training and Research;
- e. Finance and Administration;
- f. Energy and Natural Resources.

THIRTEENTH, That the Union Technical Commissions shall consist of Officers of Officers of Governments and Professionals of Member States directly concerned with the fields involved, as the Member States may designate.

FOURTEENTH, That the Union Technical Commission shall meet at least once a year. Special meetings may be convened by the Secretary-General after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission or upon a written request by a Member State to the Secretary-General, who shall immediately inform the other Member States of the request and take all appropriate action to convene the Meeting.

FIFTEENTH: That each Technical Commission of the Union shall examine issues relative to their respective fields initiated by them or upon either the directive of the Union Ministerial Council or the request of the Secretary-General.

SIXTEENTH: 1.

(a) That the Mano River Union Secretariat established under the 6th Article of the MANO RIVER DECLARATION shall be headed by the Secretary-General and assisted by a Deputy Secretary-General. They shall be nominated and appointed by the respective Heads of State and Government and shall hold office for a period of four years. Each of the said Executive Officer may be eligible for re-appointment upon the recommendation of the Union Ministerial Council for another term of four years only.

(b) There shall be a Budget/Finance Controller who shall be appointed by the Heads of State for an initial term of four years and may be eligible for re-appointment upon the recommendation of the Union Ministerial Council for another term of four years only.

2. That the Secretary-General, the Principal Executive Officer of the Mano River Union, assisted by the Deputy Secretary-General shall direct the affairs of the Secretariat.

3. That the Secretary-General shall be a national of any Member State other than the Member State in which the Headquarters is located. The Deputy Secretary-General shall be a national other than that providing the Secretary-General.

4. (a) There shall be appointed one or more Directors by the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Appointment and Promotions Committee to the affairs of the Division.

(b) The Directors so appointed by the Secretary-General shall as far as practicable ensure an equitable distribution among the Member States of the Union. Furthermore, the Directors so appointed shall as far as practicable serve as Secretaries to the Union Technical Commissions.

SEVENTEENTH: That the functions and conditions of service of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and the Budget/Finance Controller and all other employees of the Union Secretariat shall be governed by the provisions of the MANO RIVER DECLARATION and its PROTOCOLS as amended and the Staff Rules and Regulations approved by the Union Ministerial Council. In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General and his staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other authority external to the Union. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect adversely on their positions as international civil servants responsible only to the Union. The Member States undertake to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and other staff of the Union and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

EIGHTEENTH: That Ad Hoc Committees and Working Groups shall be formed by the Union Secretariat when it considers them necessary that detailed expert consideration should be given to certain areas. The Ad Hoc Committees and Working Groups shall consist of Officials of Governments and Professionals of Member States directly concerned with the fields involved, as the Member State may designate.

NINETEENTH: That Liaison Officers shall be appointed by the Member States upon the request of the Union Ministerial Council in respect of specific projects and they shall cooperate

with the Union Secretariat in respect of studies which the latter had been entrusted to undertake. They shall be officers who have the knowledge and access to the type of information pertinent to the study undertaken.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Mano River Union have hereunto affixed our respective signatures:

DONE at.....

this.....day ofin the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty in three originals, two in the English Language and one in the French Language, each text being equally authentic.

FOR THE REPUBLIC
OF SIERRA LEONE

FOR THE REPUBLIC
OF LIBERIA

FOR THE PEOPLES
REVOLUTIONARY
REPUBLIC OF
GUINEA