

**CONSOLIDATED SEVENTH PROTOCOL TO THE MANO RIVER  
DECLARATION:  
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES 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 Sixth and Eighth Articles of the MANO RIVER DECLARATION;

**DESIROUS** of strengthening the Institutions of the Union by according them the necessary Privileges and Immunities;

**RECOGNISING** the need to determine the relationship between the Mano River Union, its Organs and Officials on the one hand and the Member States of the Union on the other hand;

**MINDFUL** of the importance both within the Union and internationally of effective institutions in general and of an effective Secretariat in particular;

**DO HEREBY ESTABLISH THIS PROTOCOL TO THE DECLARATION:**

**FIRST, THE LEGAL PERSONALITY OF THE UNION**

1. The Union, as an International Organization, shall have legal personality;
2. The Union shall have in the territory of each Member State legal personality and in particular shall have:
  - (a) the legal capacity required for the performance of its functions under the MANO RIVER DECLARATION and PROTOCOLS as amended;
  - (b) the legal capacity to contract, borrow, lend, acquire, hold or dispose of movable or immovable property;

- (c) the legal capacity to accept gifts, bequests, donations;
- (d) the legal capacity to sue and be sued;
- (e) the legal capacity to perform all other functions consistent with the aims and objectives of the Mano River Union.

In the exercise of its legal personality under this Article, the Union shall be represented by the Secretary-General or in his absence, by either of the Deputy Secretary-General, or his duly authorized representative.

**SECOND, PROPERTY, FUNDS AND ASSETS OF THE MANO RIVER UNION**

1. The premises of the Mano River Union including but not limited to Union Training and Research Establishments wherever located shall be inviolable, except in so far as in any particular case, the Mano River Union shall have expressly waived its immunity;
2. The Mano River Union including but not limited to Union Training and Research Establishments, its premises, buildings, funds, assets, and other properties wherever located and by whomsoever held shall have immunity from every form of legal process, including but not limited to search, seizure, attachment, execution requisition, confiscation or any other form of seizure by executive or legislative action, except in so far as in any particular case the Mano River Union shall have expressly waived its immunity;
3. The archives of the Mano River Union and in general all documents belonging to it or held by it shall be inviolable wherever located.

**THIRD, FINANCIAL FACILITIES**

The transfer of Union Funds among Member States shall be facilitated by arrangements among the Central Banks of the Member States.

**FOURTH, TAX EXEMPTIONS**

The assets, funds, income, property, operations and transactions of the Mano River Union including but not limited to Union Training and Research Establishments shall be immune from all taxation, levies, duties, fees, charges and also from restrictions on import and export in respect of articles imported or exported by the Union for its official use.

Provided that such exemptions shall not relate to charges for public utility services and that, in case of articles imported or exported by the Union for its official use such articles shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of except in accordance with conditions agreed to by the affected Member States.

**FIFTH, FACILITIES IN RESPECT OF COMMUNICATION**

1. The Mano River Union shall have for its official communication, in the territory of each Member State treatment not less favourable than that accorded by the Government of that Member State to any other International Organization or Government, in the matter of priorities and rates on mails, cables, telex, telegrams, radiograms, telephone, and other communication; and press rates for information to press and radio;
2. Official correspondence of the Mano River Union shall not be subject to censorship in the Member States;
3. The Mano River Union shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive its official correspondence, by courier and sealed bags having the same immunities

and privileges as a diplomatic courier;

4. The Mano River Union shall have the right to establish and operate radio-telephone systems to be used exclusively between the Union Secretariat Headquarters and its Sub-Offices for inter-office communication.

**SIXTH, REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBR STATES  
ATTENDING MEETIGS**

1. Representatives of Member States attending Meetings convened by the Union shall, while executing their functions be accorded the following privileges and immunities:
  - a. immunity from personal arrest or detention;
  - b. immunity from legal process or every kind in respect of words spoken or written or acts performed by them in the exercise of their functions; inviolability for all their papers and documents and the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier;
  - c. the same facilities in respect of currency or exchange restrictions as are accorded to representatives of foreign Governments on temporary official missions;
  - d. the same immunities or facilities in respect of their personal or official baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys.
2. Privileges and Immunities are accorded to representatives of Member States in order to safeguard the individual exercise of their functions in connection with the Mano River Union and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. Consequently, a Member State may not only have the right but is under a duty to

waive the immunity of any of its representatives in any case where in the opinion of the Member State the immunity will tend to impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the purpose for which the immunity is accorded;

3. The provisions of Section 1 of this Article are not applicable between a Representative and the Authorities of the State of which he is a national.

**SEVENTH, STAFF OF THE MANO RIVER UNION**

1. Staff of the Mano River Union shall:
  - a. be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;
  - b. be immune from national service obligations;
  - c. be given, together with their spouses and members of their household the same repatriation facilities in times of crises as diplomatic envoys;
  - d. be immune together with their spouses and minor children residing with and dependants on them, from immigration restrictions;
  - e. be exempted from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the Mano River Union;
  - f. have the right to import free of duty their household and personal effects within six months of taking up their post in the country of assignment and to re-export the same free from duty to their country of domicile.

The privileges outlined in (d) and (f) above shall not only apply to Staff member serving the Union in their own country.

2. The Union Ministerial Council shall establish the categories of Staff Members of the Union to which the provision of this Article shall apply and thereafter the Secretary-General shall communicate these categories to the Member States. The names of staff included in these categories shall from time to time be communicated to the Member States.
3. In addition to the privileges and immunities specified in Section 1 of this Article, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General shall be accorded, in respect of themselves, their spouses and members of household, the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities accorded to diplomatic envoys in Member States, except in the country of their nationality.
4. Privileges and Immunities are granted to officials of the Mano River Union in the interest of the Mano River Union and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Union Ministerial Council shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any staff in any case where the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interest of the Mano River Union. In the case of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General, the Heads of State shall have the right to waive the immunity.
5. The Mano River Union shall cooperate at all times with the appropriate authorities of Member States to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of Police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and other facilities mentioned in this Article.

#### **EIGHTH, EXPERTS ON MISSION FOR THE UNION**

1. Experts performing missions for the Mano River Union

shall be accorded, unless when serving in their home country, such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions during the period of their missions, including the time spent on journeys in connection with their missions. In particular they shall be accorded:

- a. immunity from personal arrest or detention as well as any official interrogation and from inspection or seizure of their personal baggage;
  - b. in respect of words spoken or written and acts done by them in the course of the performance of their mission, immunity from legal process of every kind;
  - c. inviolability for all papers and documents;
  - d. the right to use codes for the purpose of their communications with the Mano River Union;
  - e. the same facilities in respect of currency or currency exchange facilities as are accorded to representatives of foreign Governments in temporary official missions.
2. Privileges and Immunities are granted to Experts in the interest of the Mano River Union and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Secretary-General shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any Expert in any case where the immunity would tend to impede the course of justice and it can waive without prejudice to the interest of the Mano River Union.
  3. The Mano River Union shall cooperate at all times with the appropriate authorities of Member States to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of Police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and other facilities mentioned in this Article.

**NINTH, SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

The Mano River Union may enter into such supplemental agreements with the Member States as may be necessary within the scope of this Protocol.

**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 of..... of 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 PEOPLE'S  
REVOLUTIONARY  
REPUBLIC OF  
GUINEA