

FIFTEENTH PROTOCOL TO THE MANO RIVER UNION
DECLARATION:
CO-OPERATION ON, DEFENCE, SECURITY
INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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 Article Eight of the Mano River Union Declaration;

RECALLING the Final Communiqué of the Consultation Meeting of the Heads of State of the Mano River Union held in Bamako on 2 March 2000, in particular the reiteration of our will to immediately reinstate dialogue at all levels, in order to promote good will, neighborliness and cooperation among members;

DESIROUS of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Union to contribute to the maintenance of peace, security and stability of the Member States of the Union;

MINDFUL of the need for the establishment of a framework to create an effective mechanism to monitor and ensure the security of common borders with the aim of preventing, controlling, discouraging, forestalling and averting security related problems in the border regions of the Member States;

DECIDING for the purpose of the foregoing to create an institutional framework for Defense, Security and Internal Affairs;

DO HEREBY ESTABLISH THIS PROTOCOL TO THE DECLARATION:

FIRST: **THE MANO RIVER UNION JOINT SECURITY COMMITTEE**

There shall be a Mano River Union Joint Security Committee, hereafter called "Committee" which shall be subordinate to the Heads of State and Government of the Mano River Union:

I. **Composition of the Joint Security Committee**

The Committee shall consist of Ministers of each Member State

- a) The Minister in charge of Defense
- b) The Minister in charge of Security/Justice wherever applicable;
- c) The Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- d) The Minister for Internal Affairs

II. **Functions of the Joint Security Committee**

The Committee shall perform the following functions:

- a) Address border security issues;
- b) Broaden the scope of its mandate to include other related issues that may arise from time to time;
- c) Deal with policy issues, monitoring and oversight;
- d) Direct the Technical Committee and ensure that its decisions and those taken by Heads of State and Government relating to border security and related issues are implemented;
- e) Receive and review all reports arising from border security and related issues in Member States;
- f) Initiate and develop training programmes;
- g) Draw up an Action Plan for the mobilization of financial resources through the Mano River Union for the implementation of its programmes and
- h) Perform any other function that may be deemed appropriate.

III. **Procedure of the Committee**

- a) The Committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members on a rotational basis from the Member States for a period of one year;
- b) The Committee shall meet quarterly on a rotational basis in the three Member States;

SECOND: **SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

A. Technical Committee

1. Composition of the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee shall comprise of:

- a) A representative of the National Security Adviser
- b) Representatives of the Ministries for Defense, Security/Justice where applicable, Foreign Affairs, and Internal Affairs
- c) The Chief of Defense staff or his Representative
- d) The Inspector-General of Police or his representative
- e) A representative of the Mano River Union Secretariat

2. Functions of the Technical Committee

The functions of the Technical Committee shall include the following:

- a) Review on a regular basis borders security and related issues in Member States;
- b) Receive, investigate and analyze reports on border security and related issues;
- c) Create a structure that would ensure that reports from the field are submitted directly to the current Chairman of the joint Security Committee who shall make such reports available to his/her colleague committee members including their counterparts in the other Member States. A copy should also be directed to the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union for information and necessary action;
- d) Establish the Joint Border Security and Confidence-Building Units whenever deemed necessary;

- e) Perform any other functions that may be deemed appropriate.

2. Procedure of the Technical Committee

- a) The Technical Committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members who will serve for a period of one year on a rotational basis;
- b) The Technical Committee shall meet at least once every month unless the Joint Security Committee decides otherwise.

B. JOINT BORDER SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING UNITS

1. Composition of the Joint Border Security and Confidence-Building Units

The composition of these Units shall include:

- a) District officers of border districts in the case of Sierra Leone and Liberia, and "Sous-prefets" in the case of Guinea;
- b) The Paramount Chiefs or their counterparts in the border areas;
- c) The Senior Police and/or Immigration Officer at the border areas;
- d) The Senior Customs Officer at the border post or his equivalent;
- e) The Senior Border Guard at the border;
- f) The Commanding Army Officer at the border;
- g) The youth representative at the border;
- h) The representative of women at the border area;
- i) Chairman of the Rural Development Committee in Guinea, or his equivalent in the other Member States.

1. Functions of The Joint Border and Security Confidence-Building

The Units shall be non-political and shall perform the following functions:

- a) Organize and conduct joint patrols of the borders;
- b) Develop, facilitate, foster and promote cordial relations between the peoples of the border regions through cultural, social and sporting activities;
- c) Exchange information and investigate reports or observations with regards to all border security activities;
- d) Submit reports to the Chairman of the Technical Committee promptly;
- e) Resolve minor cases of borders security violations occurring in their own administrative areas;
- f) Any other functions that may be delegated to them by the Technical Committee.

2. **Procedure of the Joint Security and Confidence-Building Units**

- a) The Committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members to serve for a period of one year on a rotational basis;
- b) The Units shall meet as frequently as possible and in any case no less than once a month.

In Witness whereof we, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Mano River Union have hereunto affixed our signatures.

Done at Conakry

This ninth day of May in the year two thousand

In three copies, two in the English Language and one in the French Language, each text being equally authentic.

Alhaji Ahmad Tejan KABBAH
For the Republic of SIERRA LEONE

Dahkpanah Dr. Charles Gankhay TAYLOR

For the Republic of LIBERIA

General Lansana CONTE

For the Republic of GUINEA