

**SIXTEENTH PROTOCOL TO THE MANO RIVER UNION**  
**DECLARATION:**  
**ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE**  
**TO FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE**

**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;

**DETERMINED in** the spirit of the Mano River Declaration and Protocols relating thereto to promote an ever closer integration economically, socially and culturally among the peoples of the West African Sub-Region on the foundations already laid;

**CONSIDERING** that Article Nine of the Declaration establishing the Mano River Union contemplates the participation of other States in the West African Sub-Region subscribing to the aims and objectives of the Union; and further, that Articles One, Two and Three of the Seventh Protocol thereto provide for the admission to full Membership of the Union by any such state;

**CONSIDERING also** that the Ministerial Council of the Mano River Union after consultation with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has declared itself in favor of the admission to full membership;

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

- FIRST,**
1. That the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire hereby becomes a full member of the Mano River Union and subscribes to the Declaration establishing the said Union as amended and/or supplemented by Protocols.
  2. That the terms of accession and amendments to the Declaration and Protocols establishing the Union necessitated thereby are set out in the Annex to this Protocol. The provisions of that Annex shall form an integral part of this Protocol.
  3. That the provisions concerning the rights and obligations of the Member States and powers and jurisdictions of various organs and institutions of Union as established by the Declaration and Protocols shall be equally binding upon the new Member State by this Protocol.
- SECOND,**
1. That this Protocol will be ratified by the High Contracting parties

according to their respective National procedures. The instruments of ratification will be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union.

2. That this Protocol will enter into force on the day the said instrument of ratification has been deposited with the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union.

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 IN MONROVIA ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHT.

In four originals, two in the English Language and two in the French Language, each text being equally authentic.

FOR THE REPUBLIC  
OF LIBERIA

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H. E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
President of the Republic of Liberia

FOR THE REPUBLIC  
OF SIERRA LEONE

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H. E. Ernest Bai Koroma  
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

FOR THE REPUBLIC  
OF GUINEA

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H. E. Lansana Kouyate  
President of the republic of Guinea

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF  
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

\_\_\_\_\_  
H. E. Laurent Dona Fologo  
Chair of Economic and Social Council  
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

## **Article 1**

For the purposes of this Protocol

- The expression "original constituent instrument" means the Mano River Declaration establishing the Mano River Union as supplemented and/or amended by Protocols or other instruments which entered into force before accession; the expression "Mano River Declaration" means the relevant original Mano River Declaration thus supplemented and/or amended;
- the expression "original Member States" means the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Republic of Guinea.
- the expression "new Member State" means the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.
- the expression "Union Ministerial Council" refers to the Union Ministerial Council as established and constituted by the First Consolidated Protocol to the Mano River Declaration.

## **Article 2**

From the date of accession, the provisions of the original constituent instrument and the acts adopted by the institutions of the Mano River Union shall be binding on the new Member State and shall apply in that State under the conditions laid down in the original constituent instrument and in this Protocol.

## **Article 3**

1. The new Member State accedes by this Protocol to the decisions and agreements adopted by the Union Ministerial Council. It undertakes to accede from the date of accession to all other agreements concluded by the original Member States relating to the functioning of the Union or connected with its activities.
2. The new Member State agrees to adhere to all international and other agreements entered into by the Union prior to the date of accession and reserves the right to enter into further negotiations with the original Member States in order to make any necessary adjustments thereto.

## **Article 4**

1. The new Member State shall adopt the agreements existing between the Union, its institutions, and agencies with other State and other international organizations in accordance with the conditions laid down in the original constituent instrument and this Protocol.

2. The new Member State shall be bound by any existing agreements signed between the Union and nationals of other States in accordance with the principles of international law.
3. The new Member State shall take appropriate measures, where necessary to adjust its position in relation to international organizations and international agreements to which the Union is a party, and to the rights and obligations arising from its accession to the Union.

#### **Article 5**

1. The rights and obligations from international agreements concluded before the entry into force of this Protocol by the new Member State with either of the original Member States on the one hand, and other States on the other hand, shall not be affected by the provisions of this Protocol except where so expressly provided.
2. Where such agreement as are referred to in paragraph 1 are not compatible or consistent with the provisions of this Protocol, the Member State shall take all appropriate steps to eliminate such incompatibilities and inconsistencies.

#### **Article 6**

The provisions of this Protocol may not be amended and/or supplemented other than by means of the procedure laid down in Article Six of the Fourteenth Protocol to the Mano River Declaration.