

**Joint Communiqué Issued at the End of a One-Day Summit by Mano River Union
Heads of State – Presidents Ouattara, Koroma, Johnson Sirleaf, and Condé in
Conakry, Guinea, on March 10, 2013**

On the occasion of the Visit of Their Excellencies **MADAM ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF**, President of the Republic of Liberia, **MR. ERNEST BAI KOROMA**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and **MR. ALASSANE OUATTARA**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, to the Republic of Guinea, on Sunday March 10, 2013.

Done in Conakry, on March 10, 2013

As part of periodic consultations among the Presidents of the Mano River Union, Their Excellencies **Madam Ellen Johnson SIRLEAF**, President of the Republic of Liberia, current Chairperson of the Mano River Union, **Dr. Ernest Bai KOROMA**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and **Mr. Alassane OUATTARA**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, leading important delegations from their countries, paid a friendly and working visit to the Republic of Guinea, on Sunday, March 10, 2013.

During this visit, the four Heads of State had fruitful talks that were held within an atmosphere of perfect cordiality and mutual understanding.

These discussions focused on issues of common interest as well as the socio-political situation prevailing in the sub-region and in Africa.

Addressing the Mano River Union activities, the four Presidents commended efforts made by the Secretariat for the restructuring of its institution. They expressed their commitment to give new dynamics to the sub-regional organization through the realization of integration infrastructures, the construction of the Headquarters in Freetown and the achievement of food security within the Mano River Space.

With a view to strengthening peace and security within the Mano River Space, they emphasized the need of pursuing the fight against criminality, especially cross-border criminality and illicit circulation of small and light weapons, drug and child trafficking, cattle theft and maritime piracy.

The four Heads of State had consultations on the date of the forthcoming Summit of the Mano River Union and agreed that the Ministerial Council Meeting and Summit will be respectively held on 29th and 30th April, 2013, in Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.

At the African level, the four Heads of State, while being delighted at the democratic progress on the continent, deplored the persistent political crises and hotbeds in the sub-region, particularly in Mali and Guinea Bissau.

Addressing the situation in Mali, the Heads of State urged ECOWAS to proceed with a rapid deployment of its troops in the North of Mali to ensure security in the liberated territories, the eradication of terrorism and the recovery of territorial integrity of the country.

Concerning Guinea Bissau, the Heads of State reiterated their full support to their Brother and Friend, His Excellency **Professor Alpha CONDE**, for the renewed trust reposed on him by ECOWAS in his capacity as mediator for the peaceful settlement of the crisis in that country.

During this visit, His Excellency **Professor ALPHA CONDE** also gave detailed information to his Guests of Honour on the development of socio-political situation in Guinea.

Professor Alpha CONDE informed his peers of measures that have been taken to ensure the holding, in Guinea, of credible, transparent and consensual parliamentary elections, namely the establishment of a Permanent Framework of Consultations.

After thanking **President ALPHA CONDE**, for the invitation extended to them, Their Excellencies **MADAM ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF**, **Dr. ERNEST BAI KOROMA** and **MR. ALASSANE OUATTARA** commended the Guinean President for efforts deployed to maintain peace, security and economic development in Guinea and in the sub-region.

The Liberian, Sierra Leonean and Ivorian Presidents reaffirmed their common will and that of their respective peoples and governments to support and accompany the Guinean people and Government in strengthening democratic process.

They encouraged **Professor Alpha CONDE** to give preference to dialogue with a view to maintaining an atmosphere of peace and trust conducive to development.

They expressed their profound gratitude to the Guinean people and Government, particularly His Excellency **Professor Alpha CONDE**, President of the Republic of Guinea, for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality accorded them as well as to their respective delegations.

Done in Conakry, March 10, 2013