

Joint Communiqué Issued at the End of the Visit of His Excellency, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the Republic of Liberia
10-11 MAY, 2012

At the invitation of Her Excellency, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, paid a two-day visit to the Republic of Liberia, from 10-11 May, 2012.

During the visit, the two leaders held wide ranging and fruitful discussions on bilateral cooperation, regional and international issues.

His Excellency, President Ernest Bai Koroma was accompanied by a high powered delegation including, Dr. Samura Kamara, Minister of Finance and Development; Hon. Oluniyi Robbin-Coker, Minister of Energy and Water Resources; and Dr. Richard Konteh, Minister of Trade and Industry.

On the Liberian side, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was accompanied by Hon. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Amara M. Konneh, Minister of Finance; Cllr. M. Wilkins Wright, Acting Minister of Justice and Attorney General; Hon. Miatta Beysolow; Minister of Commerce and Industry; Hon. Patrick Sendolo, Minister of Lands, Mines & Energy; Hon. Eugene Nagbe, Minister of Transport; Hon. Dr. Edward B. McClain, Jr.; Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and Hon. Dr. Randolph McClain, President & CEO of the National Oil Company of Liberia.

The two Presidents noted with satisfaction, the cordial relations and friendly ties subsisting between the two countries and peoples. They reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen and expand these relations.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and President Ernest Bai Koroma agreed to work together in identifying new areas of cooperation in the economic, technical, cultural, and scientific fields for the mutual benefit of their peoples and countries.

The two leaders welcomed the inauguration of a chain of National Petroleum (NP) Service stations in Liberia, established by Sierra Leonean and Liberian private investors. They observed that this development represents a significant hallmark in the economic ties of the two countries. They also recognized the traditional links amongst the peoples of both countries and expressed their commitment to further advance cross border trade as well as the free movement of goods and persons.

The Liberian and Sierra Leonean Leaders also reaffirmed their determination to curb illegal cross border activities including, but not limited to, illicit mining, drugs, illegal human and arms trafficking and money laundering. President Sirleaf and President Koroma further recognized the need for maritime boundary delimitation between the two countries. They agreed to foster petroleum exploration in both countries, and to cooperate peacefully on any issues emanating there from.

On the forthcoming Sierra Leonean elections, the two leaders recognized that peace and security are essential to economic growth and development; hence, they expressed optimism that the people of Sierra Leone will conduct free, fair, transparent and credible elections.

The Liberian Head of State and the Sierra Leonean Head of State reiterated their full support for the ECOWAS decision calling for the restoration of constitutional order in the sisterly Republics of Guinea Bissau and Mali respectively. They also agreed that Mali's territorial integrity must be preserved.

On the multilateral and international front, President Sirleaf and President Koroma reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and Charters of the Mano River Union (MRU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), and the United Nations (UN). They agreed to harmonize their positions in these regional and international organizations.

The two MRU leaders particularly agreed that the Union will be used as a vehicle for accelerated economic development and integration. In this regard, they agreed to further strengthen and support the MRU institutions.

They also expressed their commitment to the Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CLSG) segment of the West African Power Pool (WAAP) transmission line as a means of improving the economic climate of the region. The leaders further called for accelerated investment to develop the hydro power potential of the MRU and agreed to cooperate in developing cross-border infrastructure projects including roads, telecommunications, etc as a way of fostering regional integration.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the principles and protocols of ECOWAS. They commended ECOWAS for its timely and robust intervention in resolving the political, security and humanitarian situations in the region especially in Mali and Guinea Bissau. They also called on the peoples of Mali and Guinea Bissau to adhere to the ECOWAS decision on the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in those two countries.

The two sides reiterated their support for the African Union target of 2017 for achieving a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the action plan for accelerating intra-African trade.

The Liberian and Sierra Leonean leaders called for the reform of the United Nations Security Council and other UN Organs to reflect the contemporary reality of globalization and democratization of the international system.

The discussions between the two leaders were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. The leaders agreed on the necessity to maintain regular contacts at various levels not only between the two countries, but among all leaders of the sub-region.

President Ernest Bai Koroma expressed profound thanks and deep appreciation to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia for the warm fraternal welcome accorded him and his entourage.

President Koroma then extended an invitation to President Sirleaf to visit Sierra Leone. President Sirleaf on her part accepted the invitation with thanks and satisfaction. Details are to be arranged through normal diplomatic channels.

Done in Monrovia this 11th day of May A.D. 2012.

**For the Republic of
Liberia**

Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President of the Republic of Liberia

**For the Republic of
Sierra Leone**

Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone