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Government of Sierra Leone

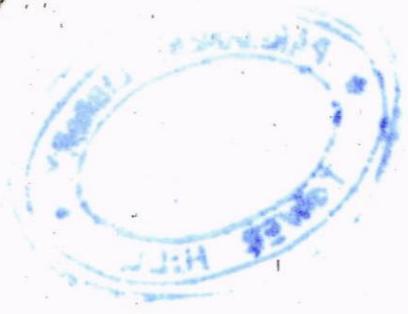
GENERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

AND

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA
LEONE**



Government of Sierra Leone

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone (hereinafter jointly referred to as "**the Parties**" and separately as "**Party**";

Desiring to strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between the two brotherly countries based on sovereign equality and mutual benefit;

Convinced that both Parties can draw mutual benefits from further strengthening and enhancement of the existing cooperation between the two countries;

Conscious that both Parties share values of freedom, democracy, justice and the rule of law, and the need to continue to **work** closely for the promotion of peace and international security with a particular **emphasis on ending** conflicts in Africa;

Considering the role that both Parties have to play in the economic, social and cultural development of Africa;

Reaffirming their commitment to enhance their cooperation ties with the view to furthering the objectives and principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Charter of the United Nations;

Desirous of upgrading the cooperation between the two countries;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Objective

To establish a legal framework within which the Parties will conduct their relationship and set out the modalities and institutional mechanisms of bilateral cooperation with a view to enhancing relations between the Parties.

Article 2
Fields of Cooperation

The Parties undertake to encourage their respective competent institutions, organizations and enterprises to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in the fields of:

10



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- Political;
- Defense and Security;
- Education, Science and Scientific research;
- Health;
- Agriculture;
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
- Air transport;
- Tourism;
- Culture and Youth development;
- Financial services;
- Trade and investment,
- Environment protection; and
- Other fields of mutual interest.

In this respect, the respective competent institutions, organizations and enterprises of the Parties may conclude specific agreements to consolidate the objectives of this General Cooperation Agreement.

Article 3

Establishment of a Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation

The Parties decide to establish a Joint Permanent Commission hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Commission" to facilitate consultations and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of mutual interest.

Article 4

Function of the Joint Commission

It shall:

- 4.1 Consider ways and means to promote the objectives specified in articles 1 and 2 of the present Agreement and to ensure the proper coordination and implementation of its decisions and/or recommendations;
- 4.2 Review the progress in implementation of all agreements and arrangements between the Parties; study and contribute to solving the problems that may arise



from the implementation of such agreements and arrangements by institutions of their respective Governments *Government of Sierra Leone*

- 4.3 Deliberate on, and conclude new agreements by relevant institutions of their respective Governments;
- 4.4 Produce a joint communiqué at the end of the Joint Commission Sessions.

Article 5 **Composition**

- 5.1 The Joint Commission shall be co-chaired by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Parties or other Representatives designated to undertake such function.
- 5.2 The composition of the delegation to the Joint Commission shall be at an appropriate level as agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 6 **Committees**

The Joint Commission may establish committees, subcommittees or working groups to deal with specific subjects brought before it by any of the institution referred to under section 4.3 above.

Article 7 **Meetings and Venue**

- 7.1 The Joint Commission shall meet once every two years alternately in the Republic of Rwanda and in the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- 7.2 The Agenda of each meeting of the Joint Commission, shall be agreed upon between the Parties through diplomatic channels at least one (1) month prior to the meeting.

Article 8 **Financial Obligations**

- 8.1 Each Party shall bear the travel and accommodation expenses, as well as daily allowances of its representatives to the Joint Commission meetings.



Government of Sierra Leone

- 8.2 The Party hosting the meeting of the Joint Commission, is responsible for expenses related to the organization of the meeting, domestic transportation and other protocol measures.

Article 9

Promotion of Private Sector

Subject to approval by both Parties, the representatives of private companies, economic or financial groups and enterprises from both countries, may participate in the works of the Joint Commission and initiate partnerships among them.

Article 10

National Laws and International Treaty Obligations

- 10.1 All activities covered by this Agreement shall comply with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of the Party in which they take place.
- 10.2 The Parties agree that nothing in the present General Cooperation Agreement shall affect their obligations under existing international treaties or obligations arising from regional or international organizations of which they are members.

Article 11

Settlement of disputes

Any dispute between the Parties arising out of implementation or interpretation of this General Cooperation Agreement, shall be settled amicably through bilateral negotiations between the Parties.

Article 12

Amendment

This General Cooperation Agreement may be amended by the mutual consent of the Parties with an Exchange of Notes between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Article 13

Entry into force, Validity and Denunciation



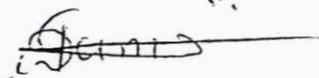
- 14.1. This General Cooperation Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature thereof, and shall remain in force as long as it has not been denounced by one of the Parties.
- 14.2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years and shall be renewed automatically for equal and successive periods.
- 14.3. Notwithstanding sub-Article 1, either Party may terminate this General Cooperation Agreement at any time provided it gives the other Party six months (6) prior written notice through diplomatic channels, of its intents to terminate the Agreement.
- 14.3. Notwithstanding sub-Article 2, ongoing specific projects and programs under the framework of this General Cooperation Agreement shall continue uninterrupted until completion.

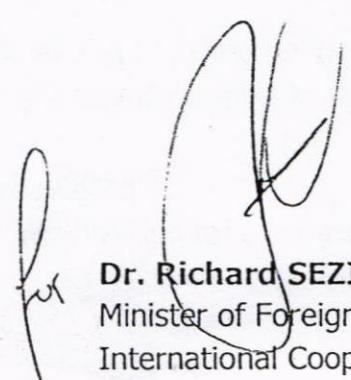
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this General Cooperation Agreement in duplicate in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

Done at Kigali, this 5th day of July 2019

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**


Hon. Nabeela Farida Tunis
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation


Dr. Richard SEZIBERA
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation