

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Republic of Sierra Leone
OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown*

Ref: 3079/207

12 October 2018

From:

The Director-General and Ambassador-at-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Tower Hill
Freetown

To:

The Clerk of Parliament
Parliament Building
Tower Hill
Freetown

Dear Sir

Ratification of the Agreement between the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis and the Republic of Sierra Leone on Exemption of Visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Ordinary Passports

I am directed to refer to the above subject-matter and to submit the abovementioned Agreement and respectfully request dates for the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to lay the said Agreement before this Honourable House for ratification.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration as I await to hear from you.

Patrick Hassan Morlai Koroma

FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL & AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE

CC: The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

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SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

REF: L/FA/1

From: The Solicitor-General

To: The Director-General & Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

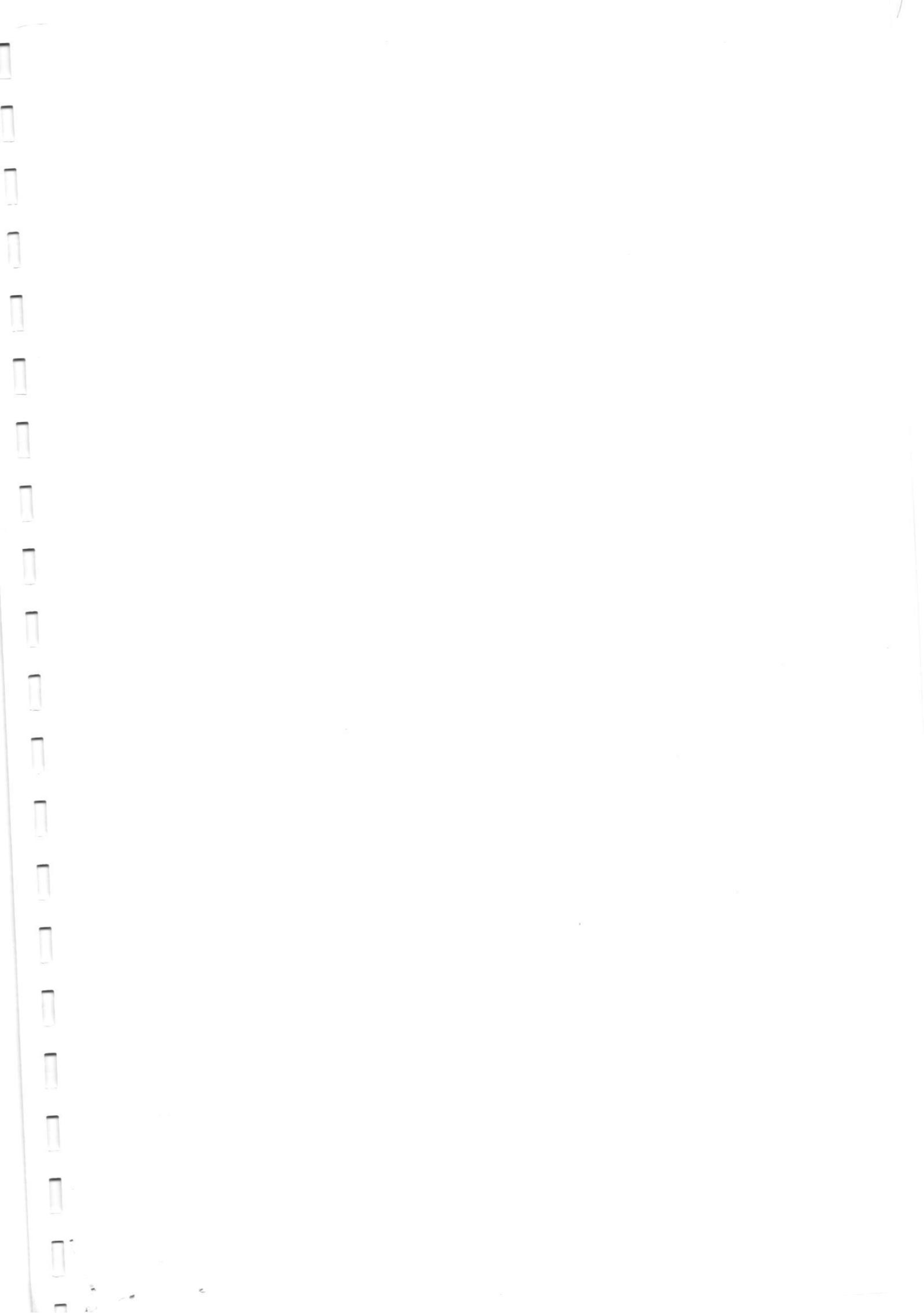
30th March, 2017

Copy: Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL AND ORDINARY PASSPORTS

We refer to your correspondence culminating with Memorandum NO.15295/42 of 29th March, 2017 pertaining to the above-cited Cooperation Agreements.

1. The Draft Agreements are to be entered into between (a) the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the People's Republic of China on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service passports (b) Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis on exemption of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic, official and ordinary passports.
2. It is intended that the Parties to the Agreement referred to in (a) above establish a cooperation mechanism whereby citizens of Sierra Leone and China are exempted from visa requirements for entry into, exit from or transit through the territories of both countries for a maximum period of thirty (30) days. In relation to the Agreement referred to in (b) above, it is intended that the Parties establish a cooperation mechanism whereby holders of valid diplomatic, official or ordinary passports issued by the

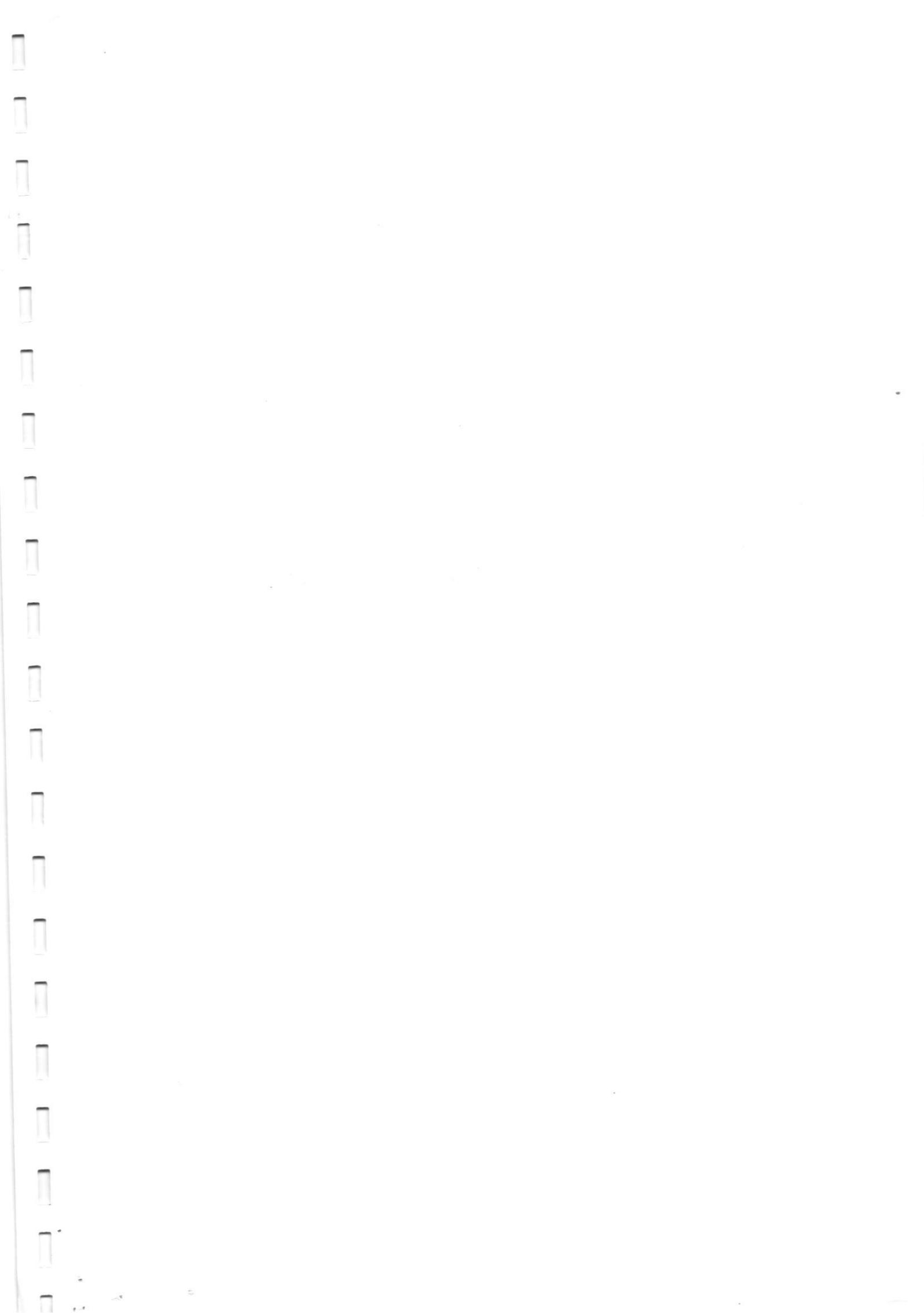


Republic of Sierra Leone or Federation of St Christopher and Nevis are exempted from visa requirements for entry into, exit from or transit through the territories of both countries for a period not exceeding 90 days.

3. As international Agreements, they are subject to ratification by Parliament by a resolution supported by the votes of not less than one-half of the Members of Parliament pursuant to section 40 subsection (4)(d)(ii) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991).
4. Subject to the above, we convey our concurrence to the signed Cooperation Agreements.


Alimamy Sesay
Principal State-Counsel
For Solicitor-General

Law Officers' Department
Guma Building
Freetown





GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

MINUTE PAPER

The D.G., MFAIC

- (i) Memo Reference: CP(2017)32
- (ii) Below is Extract from Minutes of the 2nd Regular Meeting of Cabinet held on Wednesday 26th July 2017.

ACCESSION TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARD 1958 AND DRAFTING OF A NEW ARBITRATION ACT

Memo. No: CP(2017)32

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

The New York Convention of the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards was adopted at a United Nations Conference on 10th June 1958. It entered into force on 7th June, 1959 and presently has 157 state parties, which constitute 154 of the 193 United Nations Member States plus the Islands, the Holy See, and the State of Palestine. The convention requires courts of contracting states to give effect to private agreements to arbitrate and to recognize and enforce arbitration onwards made in other contracting states. The New York Convention is the most important international convention that applies to the cross-border enforcement of arbitration awards. The convention applies arbitrations which are not considered as domestic awards in the state where recognition and enforcement is sought, and therefore widely considered as the fundamental instrument for international arbitration which is a fast-growing form of dispute resolution chosen in international contracts.

CABINET DECISION

CABINET

- (1) endorsed the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958 (the New York Conventions);



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- (2) authorized the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to sign the New York Convention;
- (3) authorized the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to lay the New York Convention before Parliament for ratification;
- (4) authorized the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice to draft and subsequently pursue the enactment of a new Arbitration Act which (i) implements the New York Convention prior to accession and (ii) modernized domestic arbitration practice.



SAMUEL C. BANGURA

for: Secretary to the Cabinet and Head
of the Civil Service

11th AUGUST, 2017

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16. 17. 18.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

to the Agreement between the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis and the Republic of Sierra Leone on Exemption of Visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Ordinary Passports

This Agreement was proposed by the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis through our Mission in London. The Agreement received Cabinet Approval on 3 October 2016 and on that authority, it was signed in London on 14 February 2017.

The Agreement will strengthen the existing friendly relations between our two Commonwealth countries and facilitate visa free travel into, through and out of each other's territory for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days for holders of diplomatic, official and ordinary passports of both countries.

The Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis is a Caribbean island nation with a population of about 54,000 people, principally dependent on tourism. The ratification of this Agreement will create the opportunity for Sierra Leone to share experience with Saint Christopher and Nevis in a bid to enhance our tourism industry.

Although this Agreement was signed and received Cabinet Approval before the current administration, its main objectives are consistent with His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio's New Direction programme of government. In Paragraphs 18, 21 and 23 of His Excellency's Presidential Address to this Honourable House on 10 May 2018, the President set out his vision to promote, market and improve Sierra Leone's international image; showcase the country's tourist potential to the outside world; and promote tourism-based activities to link with the rural economy. This is consistent with the efforts of this Excellency's government to diversify Sierra Leone's economy.

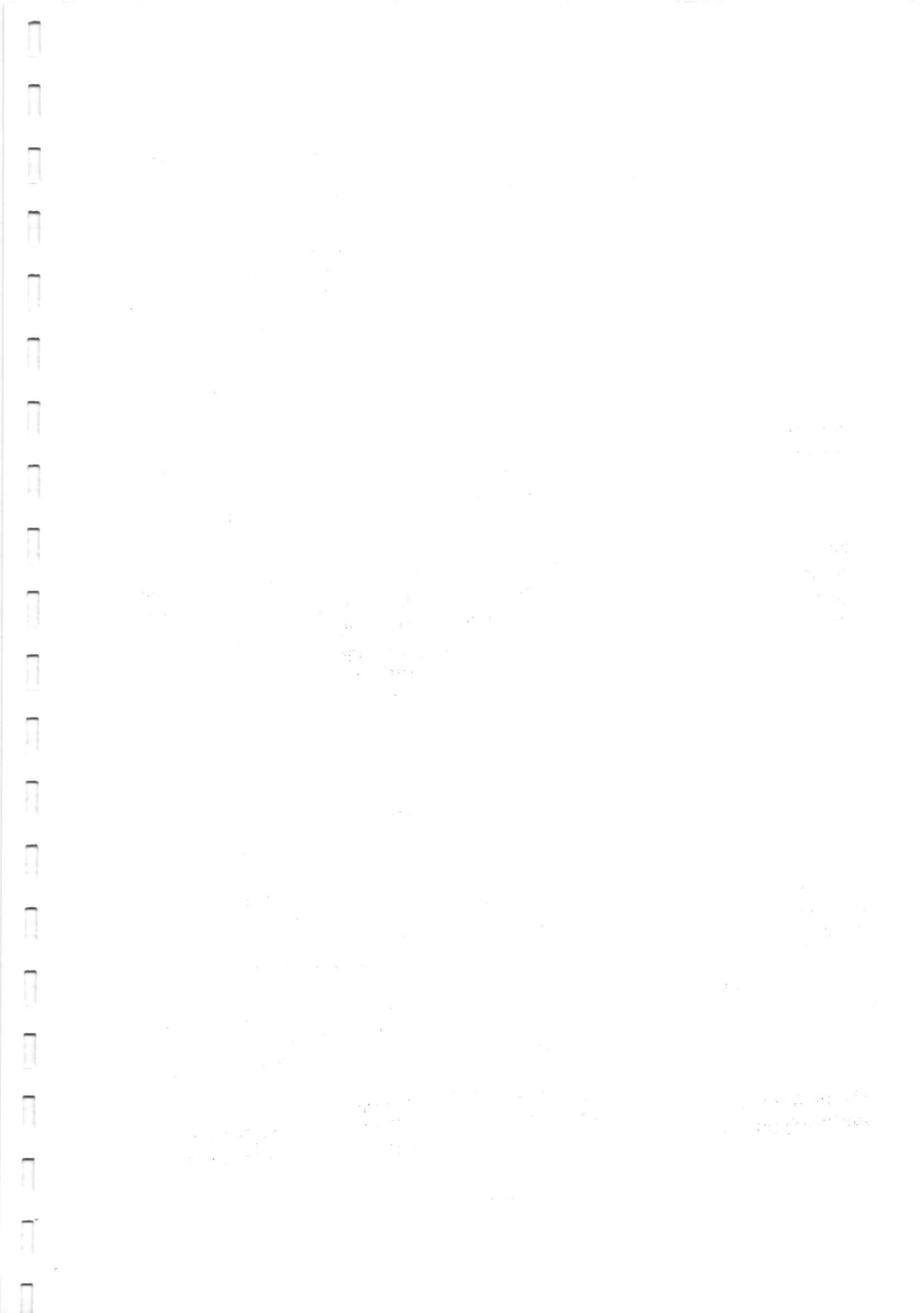
To this end, ratifying this Agreement with a country whose main economic activity is based on tourism will indeed provide the much-needed opportunity for knowledge exchange in developing our tourism and attract citizens of both countries to embark on tourist holidays between our two countries.

The focal person for this Agreement, on behalf of the Director-General and Ambassador-at-Large, to liaise with Parliament is:

Patrick Hassan Morlai Koroma
Director, Human Rights and Compliance
Legal Affairs and International Conventions Division
Email: pkoroma@foreignaffairs.gov.sl
Telephone: 076335579

Done: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Dated: 12 October 2018



② D/ Human R & Compliance
Pl. Continue action on
this issue



20/03/17



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ref: MIA/01/41

From: The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs

To: The Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

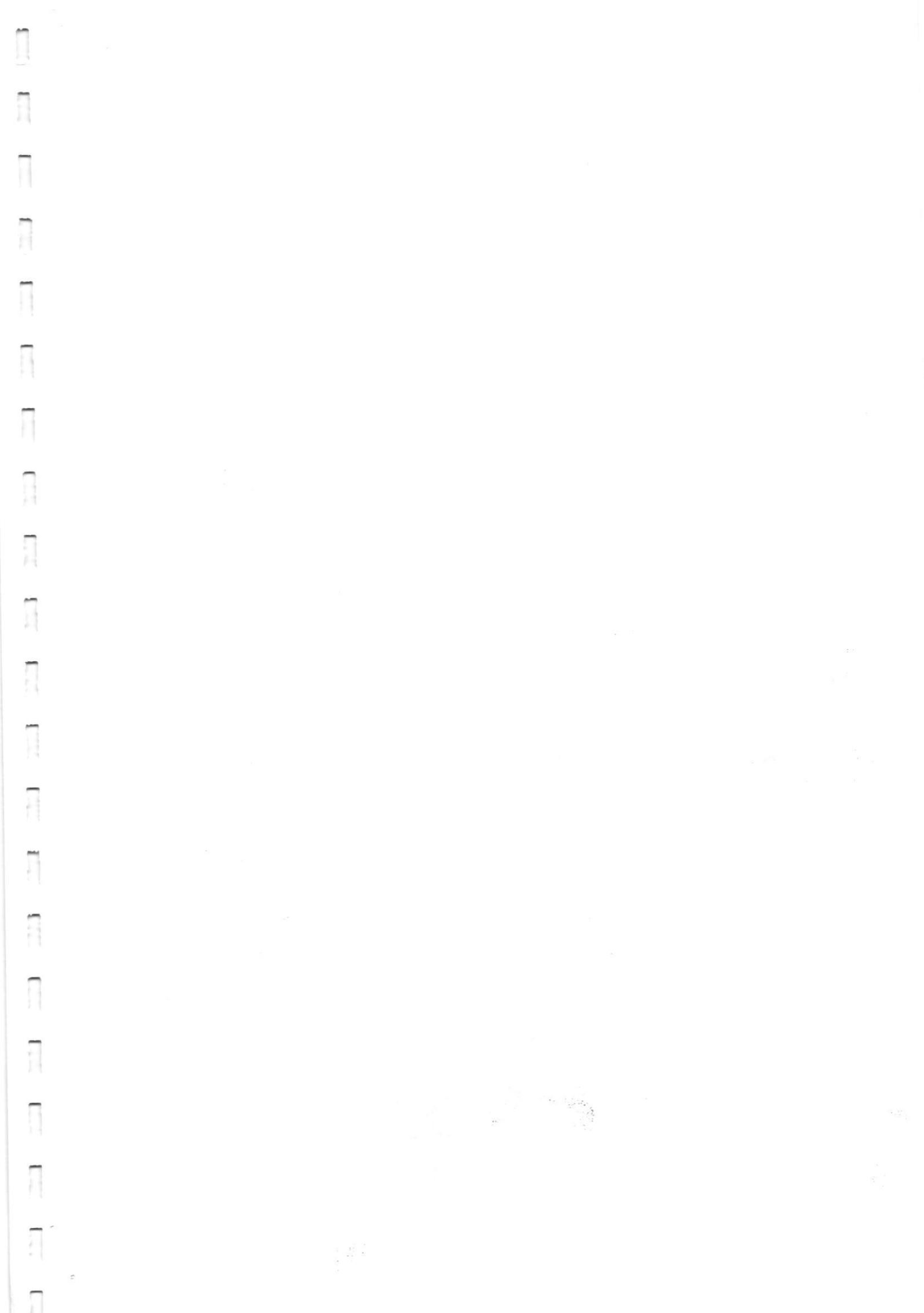
Date: 17th March, 2017

Request for Concurrence on Agreement Between the People of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic, Officials and Ordinary Passports

I am directed to refer to the above and to forward herewith the attached Concurrence referenced No. 3079/101 emanating from the Chief Immigration Officer's Office for your attention and necessary action please.

You are assured of our cooperation at all times.

Saffie Saffinatu Phoena (Mrs)
For: Permanent Secretary





SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

REF:L/FA/1

FROM: The Solicitor-General

**TO: The Director-General & Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and International Cooperation**

27th January, 2016

**RE: PROPOSED RECIPROCAL VISA AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. KITTS AND
NEVIS AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

We refer to your memorandum No. 3079/192 dated 18th January, 2016, on the subject cited above forwarding to this Office a copy of a draft Agreement for legal vetting and approval.

2. We have carefully perused the draft Agreement, which we believe that the issues contained therein have been carefully negotiated and subsequently agreed upon by your Ministry and St. Kitts and Nevis.

3. We are satisfied with the form and substance of the draft Agreement, therefore have no legal objection to it and further advise that you cause it to be signed, subject to consideration and approval by Cabinet.


ALIMAMY SESAY
SENIOR STATE-COUNSEL
FOR: SOLICITOR-GENERAL

LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT
GUMA BUILDING
FREETOWN

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IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

14 GLOUCESTER STREET, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

Tel: (00 232 22) 223034/225081 Fax: (00 232 220) 224761.slid@sierratel.sl

REF. NO. 3079/101

From: Chief Immigration Officer.

To: The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

13th March, 2017.

**REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE FEDERATION OF SAIT
CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS ON EXEMPTION OF VISA
REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL AND
ORDINARY PASSPORTS**

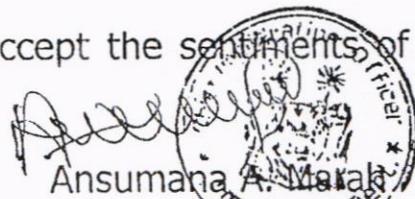
I write relative to the above subject and to inform you that the Immigration Department is in concurrence of the above stated agreement.

It must be noted that as a Department the above agreement re-enforce our obligation of making migration easier and in line with International Treaties and Agreements.

In view of the above, I hereby give concurrence to your Ministry in order to facilitate the preparation of the memorandum for approval by cabinet.

Please be assured of our Cooperation and accept the sentiments of my highest esteem.

[Handwritten signature]



Ansumana A. Marak

Deputy Chief Immigration Officer





IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

14 GLOUCESTER STREET, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

Tel: (00 232 22) 223034/225081 Fax: (00 232 220) 224761.slid@sierratel.sl

ID 6/2A

From: The Chief Immigration Officer.

To: The Director-General and Ambassador-At-Large

28th July, 2016.

RE- PROPOSED RECIPROCAL VISA AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. KITTS AND NEVIS AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

I am directed to refer to your correspondence referenced 15295/1 dated 22nd July, 2016 in relation to the above subject matter and to inform you that the Immigration Department has no objection or comments on the content of the draft agreement.

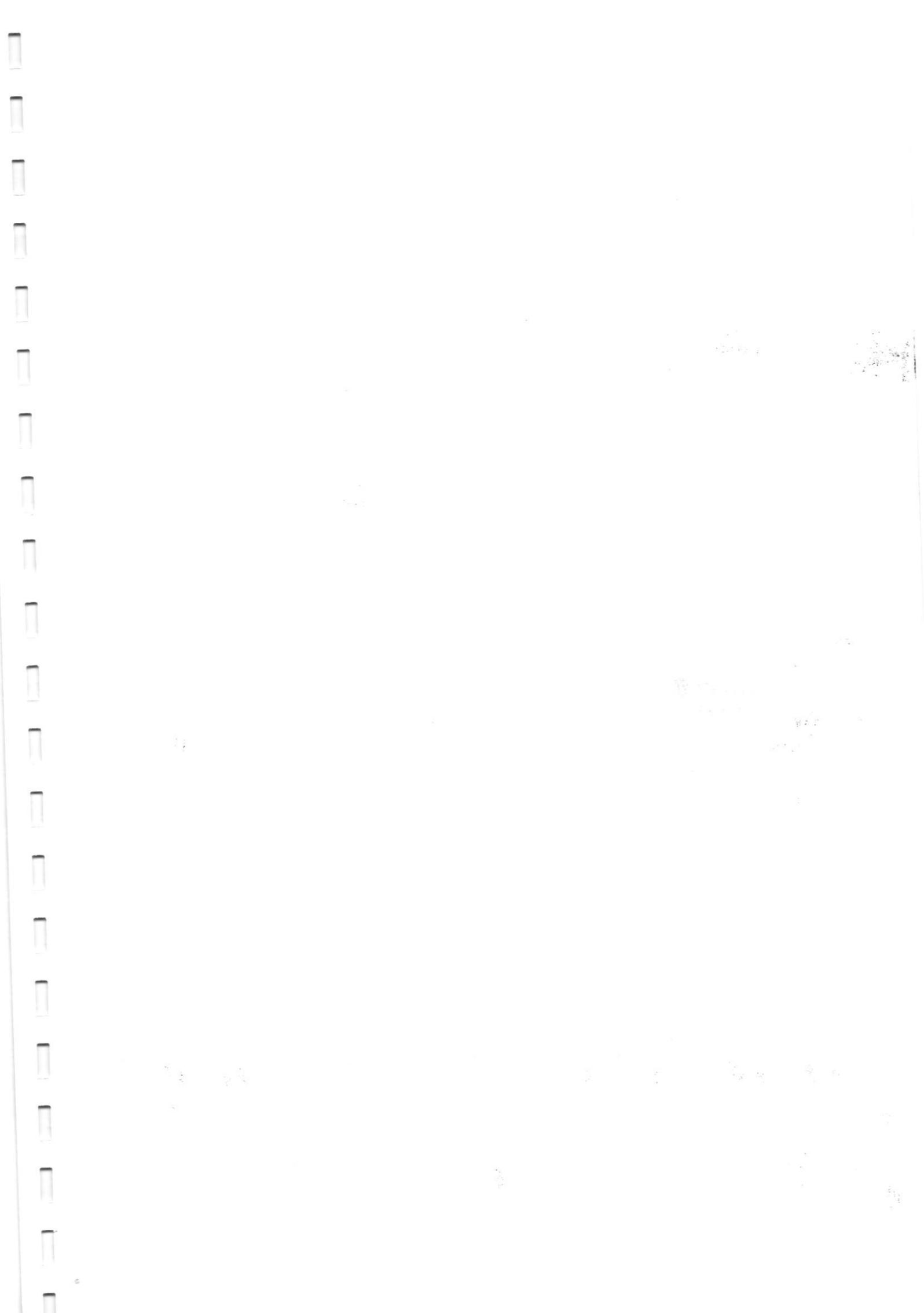
We have noted all the points mentioned in ARTICLES 1 to 13. They are geared to further strengthen the already existing friendly relations between our Republic and the Federation of ST, CHRISTOPHER and NEVIS.

You are assured of our usual cooperation.


Dominic Usman

For Chief Immigration Officer





SECRET

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

CP(2016)145

COPY NO.....

26TH SEPTEMBER 2016

CABINET

**PROPOSED RECIPROCAL VISA EXEMPTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

**Memorandum by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation**

1. Recommendations:

Cabinet is invited to:

- i. approve the proposed draft Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis in respect of visa exemption requirements for holders of Diplomatic, Service and Ordinary Passports for entry into, exit from or transit through the territory of each other's country for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days;
- ii. authorise the Sierra Leone High Commissioner in the United Kingdom to sign the proposed Agreement on behalf of Sierra Leone with his counterpart from the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis;
- iii. authorise the Ministry of Internal Affairs to incorporate the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis on the list of countries with which Sierra Leone has reciprocal Visa Waiver/Exemption Agreements recognised by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office.

2. Purpose and brief description:

The draft Visa Exemption Agreement seeks to strengthen existing ties between Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis as well as to mutually guarantee the free movements of nationals of the two countries. The proposed Visa Exemption Agreement allows citizens of the two Commonwealth countries holding valid passports, both in their official and private capacities including their dependants, to stay in each other's territory for a period not exceeding Ninety (90) consecutive Days. In an event where nationals of either country wishes to stay beyond Ninety (90)

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Consecutive days in the territory of the other contracting party, they will be required to obtain the appropriate visa prior to arrival, or if already in the country of the other contracting party, apply for it before the expiration of the Ninety (90) consecutive days.

3. **Strategic relevance and urgency:**

A key priority policy aspiration articulated in the Agenda for Prosperity is the diversification of economic activities for rapid transformation of the country's economy. Thus the proposed Visa Exemption Agreement is a viable mechanism envisioned to facilitate diversified economic engagement through touristic visits as well as exchange of knowledge and expertise relating to the tourist sector which is in sync with the Strategic focus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis is an island nation with a population of about 54,000 people, principally dependent on the Tourist Sector as the mainstay of its economy. In essence, the approval of the proposed Visa Waiver Agreement would create a congenial platform for the two nations to collaborate in the area of tourism which fits precisely into Pillar one (1) of the country's Agenda for Prosperity namely, Diversification of Economic Growth, with specific reference to promoting Local and International Tourism;

It is envisaged that the proposed agreement will stimulate intergovernmental, social, economic and cultural exchanges between the two nations.

4. **Expected benefits and target beneficiaries**

The Agreement will lay the foundation for further joint cooperation on issues of bilateral significance in the tourist sectors of the two state parties. It is therefore expected that Cabinet's approval of the proposal will bring a critical boost to the emerging tourist industry of Sierra Leone. In addition to easing travel constraints associated with visa requirements, the Tourism Ministry is expected to significantly benefit from a strengthened bilateral relation between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis;

It is hoped that the Agreement will strengthen the existing friendly relations and ease the free movement of people across the two countries.

Colleagues may also wish to note that given that the Electronics Industry in Saint Kitts and Nevis is one of the largest and fastest growing sectors, the Visa Waiver Agreement could result in regular fellowship exchanges between tertiary institutions in the two countries, of which Sierra Leone has the potential to gain substantially from the expertise of the Federation of Saint Christopher

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and Nevis.

5. **Consultation across government:**

The Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office and the Immigration Department were both consulted and their concurrence/no objection to the Visa Exemption Agreement were duly communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as indicated in the annexes;

The Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office notes that it is confident that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has exercised sufficient due diligence and therefore has no legal objection to the proposed Visa Waiver Agreement;

The Immigration Department has also indicated that having perused the proposed agreement, they are of the view that the agreement is intended to strengthen the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis.

6. **Financial implications:**

The proposed Visa Waiver Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis is at no cost to Government.

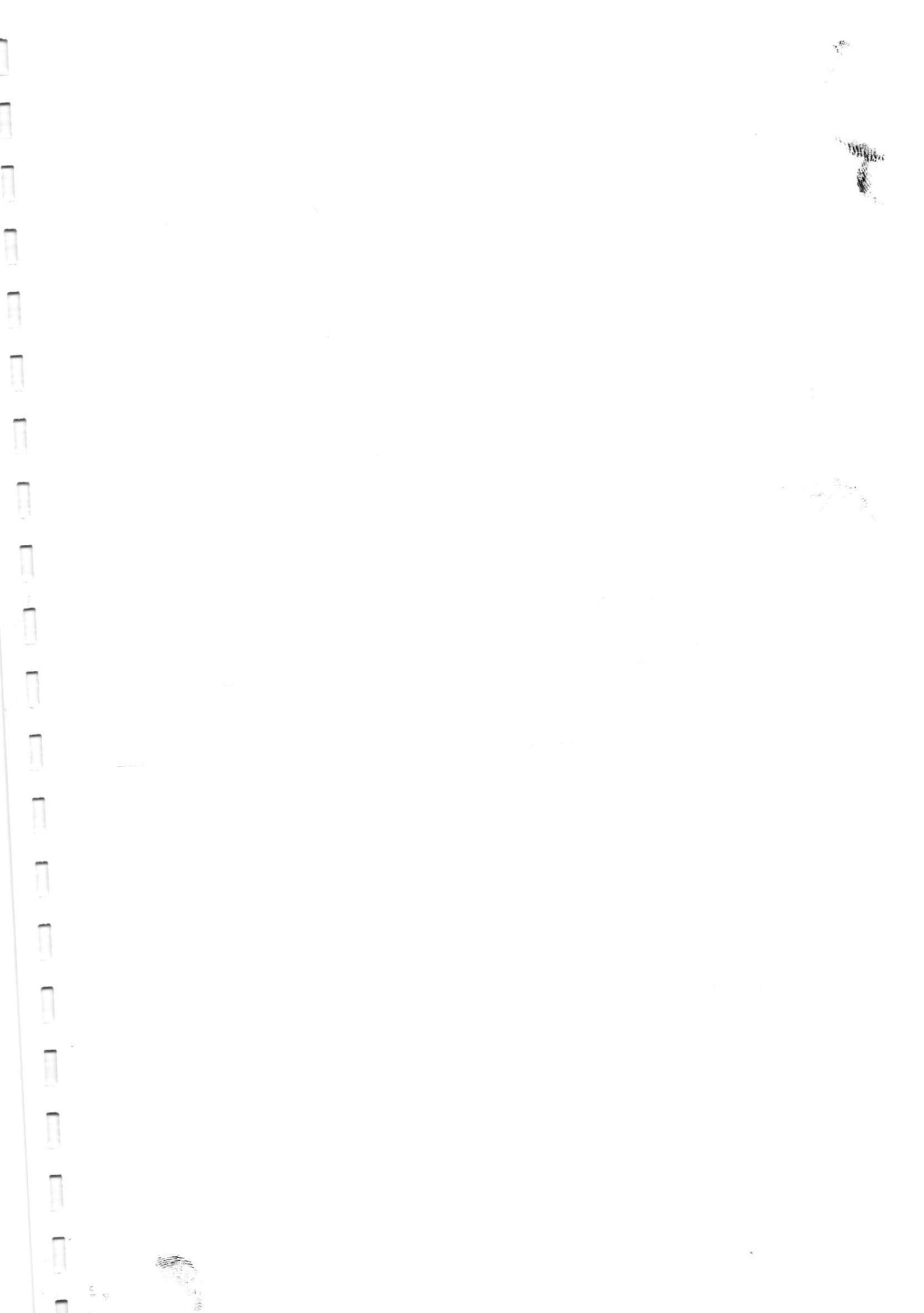
7. **Legal implications:**

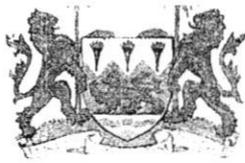
As in other Agreements, the proposed Visa Waiver Agreement between Sierra Leone and Saint Christopher and Nevis has some legal implications that commit the signatory parties to certain obligations and privileges essential to its unhindered implementation. This memorandum is therefore issued with the concurrence of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice.



SIGNED: SAMURA MATHEW WILSON KAMARA (Ph.D)
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION

DATE: 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2016





GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

MINUTE PAPER

The Director General, MFAIC

- (i) CP(2016)145 issued, please see third cover:
- (ii) Below is Extract from Conclusion:

2. PROPOSED RECIPROCAL VISA EXEMPTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. KITTS AND NEVIS AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

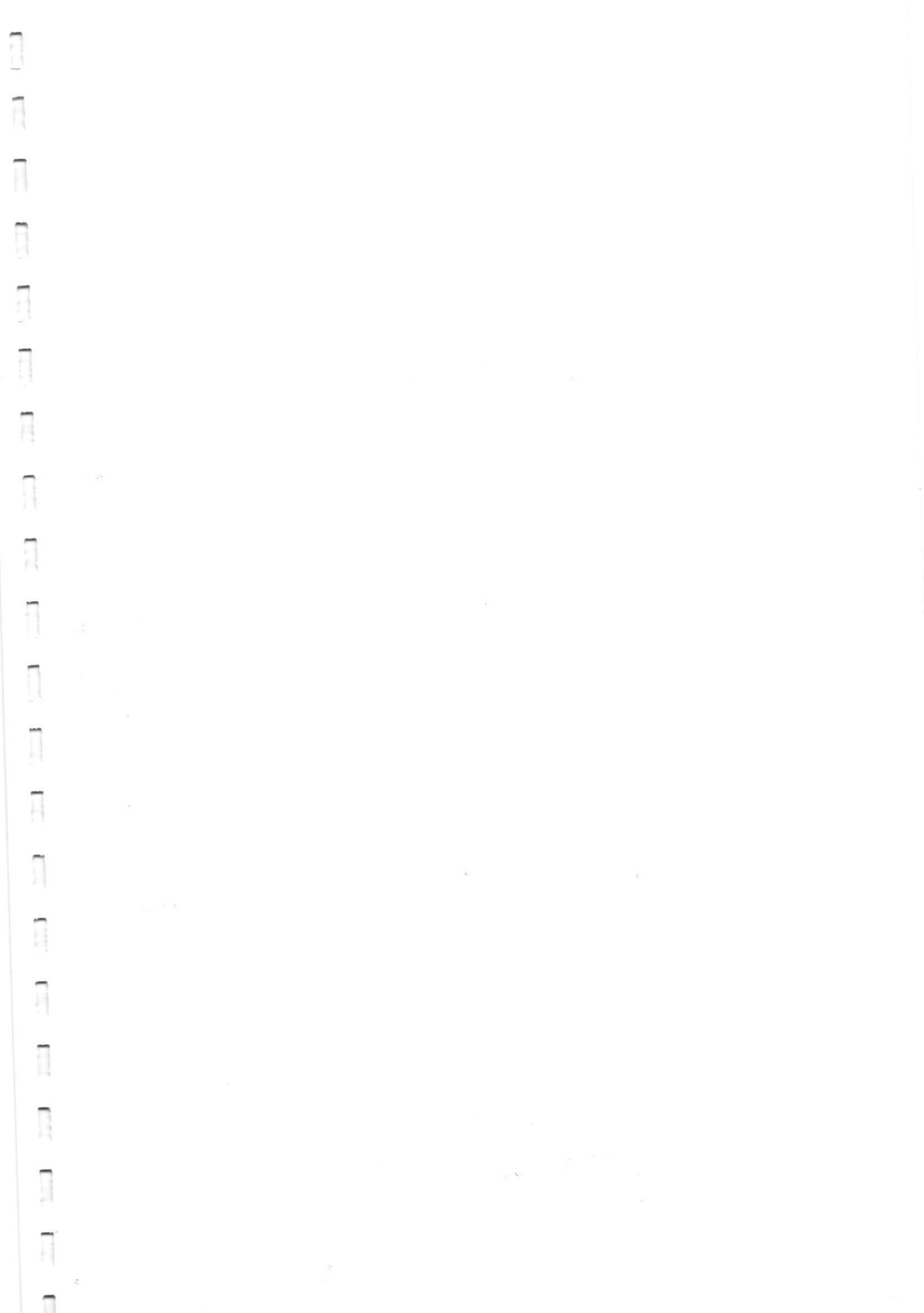
Memo. No: CP(2016)145

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation presented a request for Cabinet to approve the reciprocal Visa Exemption Agreement between Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis (St. Kitts) which allows citizens of the two Commonwealth countries holding valid passports, both in their official and private capacities including their dependents, to stay in each other's territory for a period not exceeding Ninety (90) consecutive Days. In an event where nationals of either country wish to stay beyond Ninety (90) Consecutive days in the territory of the other contracting party, they will be required to obtain the appropriate visa prior to arrival, or if already in the country of the other contracting party, apply for it before the expiration of the Ninety (90) consecutive days.

CABINET DECISION

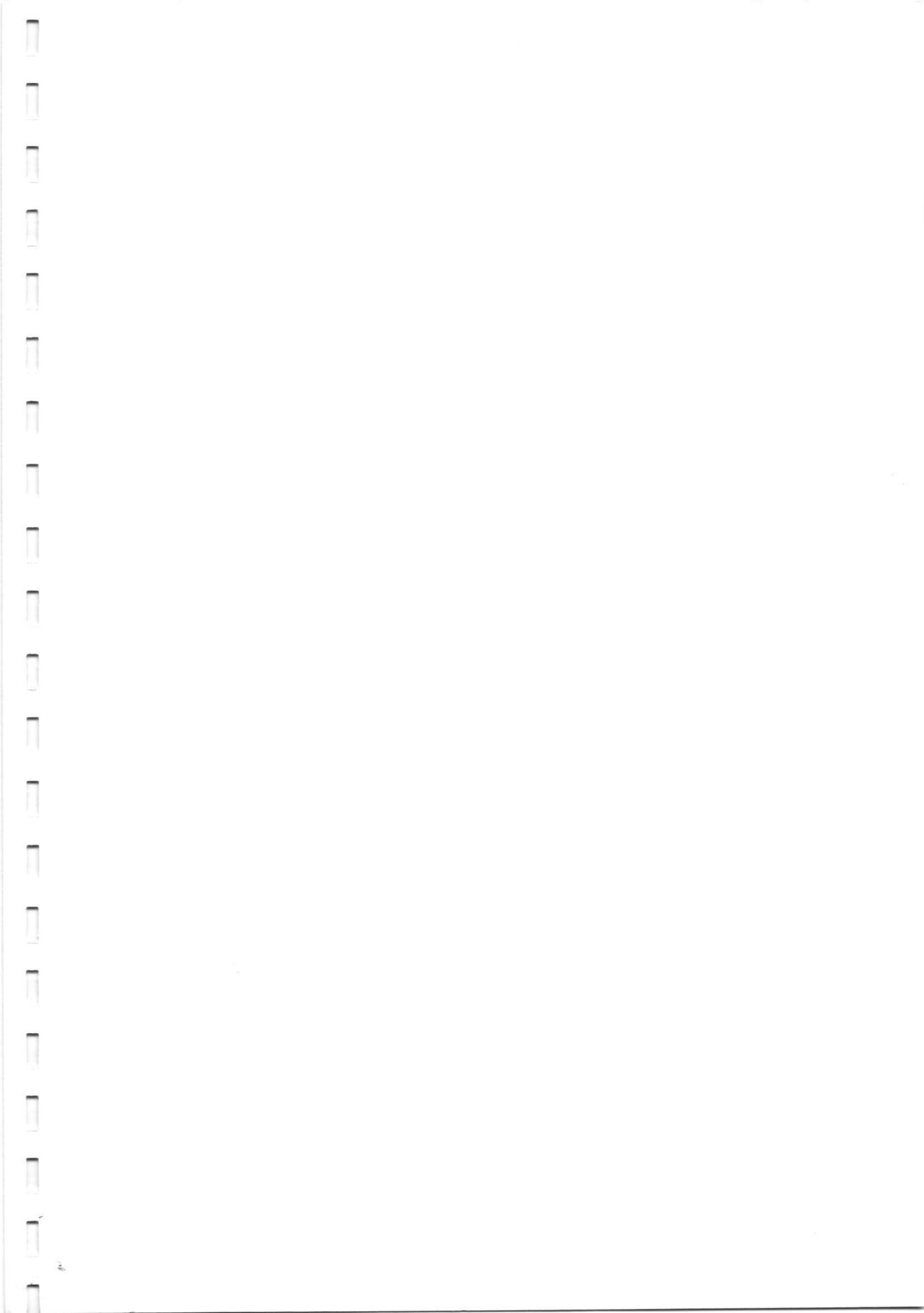
Cabinet approved the proposal from the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



3rd October 2016

Sonia U. Karim (Ms.)
for: Secretary to the Cabinet and Head
of the Civil Service

A handwritten signature consisting of a horizontal line followed by a looped flourish.



St. Kitts and Nevis Visa Waiver Countries

Country	Length of Stay
Anguilla	3 months
Antigua & Barbuda	6 months
Argentina	3 months
Aruba	1 month
Austria	3 months
Bahamas	3 months
Barbados	6 months
Belgium	3 months
Belize	1 month
Botswana	3 months
British Virgin Islands	
Bulgaria	3 months
Cayman Islands	1 month
Chile	3 months
Colombia	3 months
Costa Rica	1 month
Croatia	3 months
Cuba	1 month
Cyprus	3 months
Czech Republic	3 months
Denmark	1 month
Dominica	6 months
Ecuador	3 months
El Salvador	3 months
Estonia	3 months
Fiji	4 months
Finland	3 months
France	3 months
Gambia	3 months



Georgia	300 days
Germany	3 months
Gibraltar	
Greece	3 months
Grenada	6 months
Guatemala	3 months
Guyana	3 months
Haiti	3 months
Honduras	3 months
Hong Kong	3 months
Hungary	3 months
Iceland	3 months
Israel	3 months
Ireland	
Italy	3 months
Jamaica	
Kenya	3 months
Kiribati	
Korea (South)	3 months
Latvia	3 months
Lesotho	14 days
Lithuania	3 months
Luxembourg	3 months
Macedonia (former)	3 months
Malawi	3 months
Malaysia	2 months
Malta	3 months
Mauritius	2-3 months
Micronesia	1 month
Monaco	3 months
Montserrat	3 months
Netherlands	3 months
Netherlands Antilles	3 months



Nicaragua	3 months
Nine	1 month
Norway	3 months
Panama	1 month
Peru	3 months
Philippines	1 month
Poland	3 months
Portugal	3 months
Romania	3 months
Singapore	1 month
Slovak Republic	3 months
Slovenia	3 months
Spain	3 months
St. Lucia	6 weeks
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	6 months
Suriname	3 months
Sweden	3 months
Switzerland	3 months
Trinidad & Tobago	3 months
Tunisia	3 months
Turkey	3 months
Turks & Caicos	1 month
United Kingdom	6 months
Vanuatu	1 month
Venezuela	3 months
Zambia	3 months
Zimbabwe	3 months



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF
DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL AND ORDINARY PASSPORTS**

The Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis (hereinafter referred to individually as the "Contracting Party" and collectively as the "Contracting Parties"),

Being desirous of strengthening the existing friendly relations and facilitating travel between the two countries,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Nationals of either country who are holders of valid diplomatic, official or ordinary passports issued by the Contracting Parties shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into, exit from or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days.

ARTICLE 2

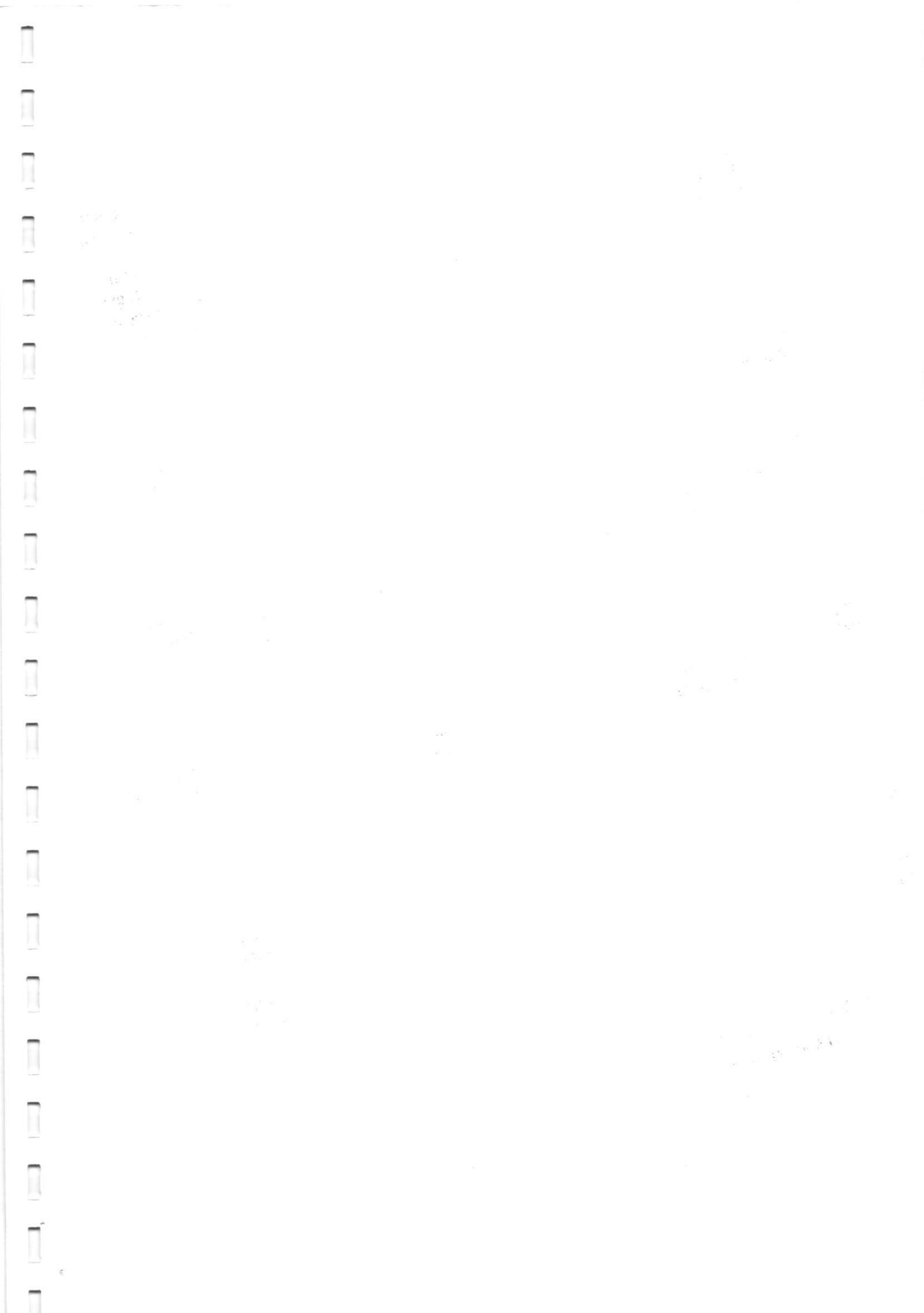
Nationals of either country intending to stay more than ninety (90) consecutive days in the territory of the other Contracting Party, as referred to in Article 1 of this Agreement, are required to obtain the corresponding visa prior to arrival or, if already in the territory of the other Contracting Party, apply for it before the expiration of the ninety (90) consecutive days.

ARTICLE 3

Nationals of either country may, in accordance with Article 1, enter the territory of the other Contracting Party or exit it at any port or border pass open to international traffic by passengers, provided that they fulfil the requirements of the laws and regulations of the other country concerning such entry, movement and stay by foreigners.

ARTICLE 4

1. Citizens of each Contracting Party, holding diplomatic, official or ordinary passports, who are appointed to the diplomatic, consular missions or representations of international organisations in the territory of the other Contracting Party, shall be exempted from visa requirement to enter into, exist from and transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party for the period of their assignments.
2. The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall also be applied to members of their dependants holding valid diplomatic, official and ordinary passports.



ARTICLE 5

1. Citizens of each contracting party, in case of loss or damage of valid documents during their stay in the territory of the other Party, shall exit from the territory of this State on the basis of new valid documents issued by a diplomatic or consular mission of the country of their citizenship without a visa or other permit from the competent authorities of the receiving State.
2. Citizens of each Contracting Party, who are not in a position to exit from the territory of the other Contracting Party within the period specified in the first paragraph of Article (3) of this Agreement due to exceptional circumstances (illness or natural disaster) and have documentary or other reliable evidence of such circumstances, may apply to the relevant authorities for the permit to extend their stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party for an appropriate period needed to return to the country of their citizenship or their permanent residence.

ARTICLE 6

In the spirit of safeguarding the public interests, combating illegal migration and accommodating security concerns of the two countries, both parties do their best to stop any undesired persons and third country citizens from entering each other's territory.

ARTICLE 7

1. Each Contracting Party has the right to deny entry into its territory of the other Contracting citizens or cancel or shorten their stay in the country in the case where the individual commits acts that violate the laws and regulations of the receiving Party.
2. Each Contracting Party shall ask to exit without delay and further formalities, the citizens of each Party who have submitted false or forged documents to the border authorities of the other Party or who have overstayed the period allowed by their visa or who have violated existing rules governing the entry and exit procedures of the other Party.

ARTICLE 8

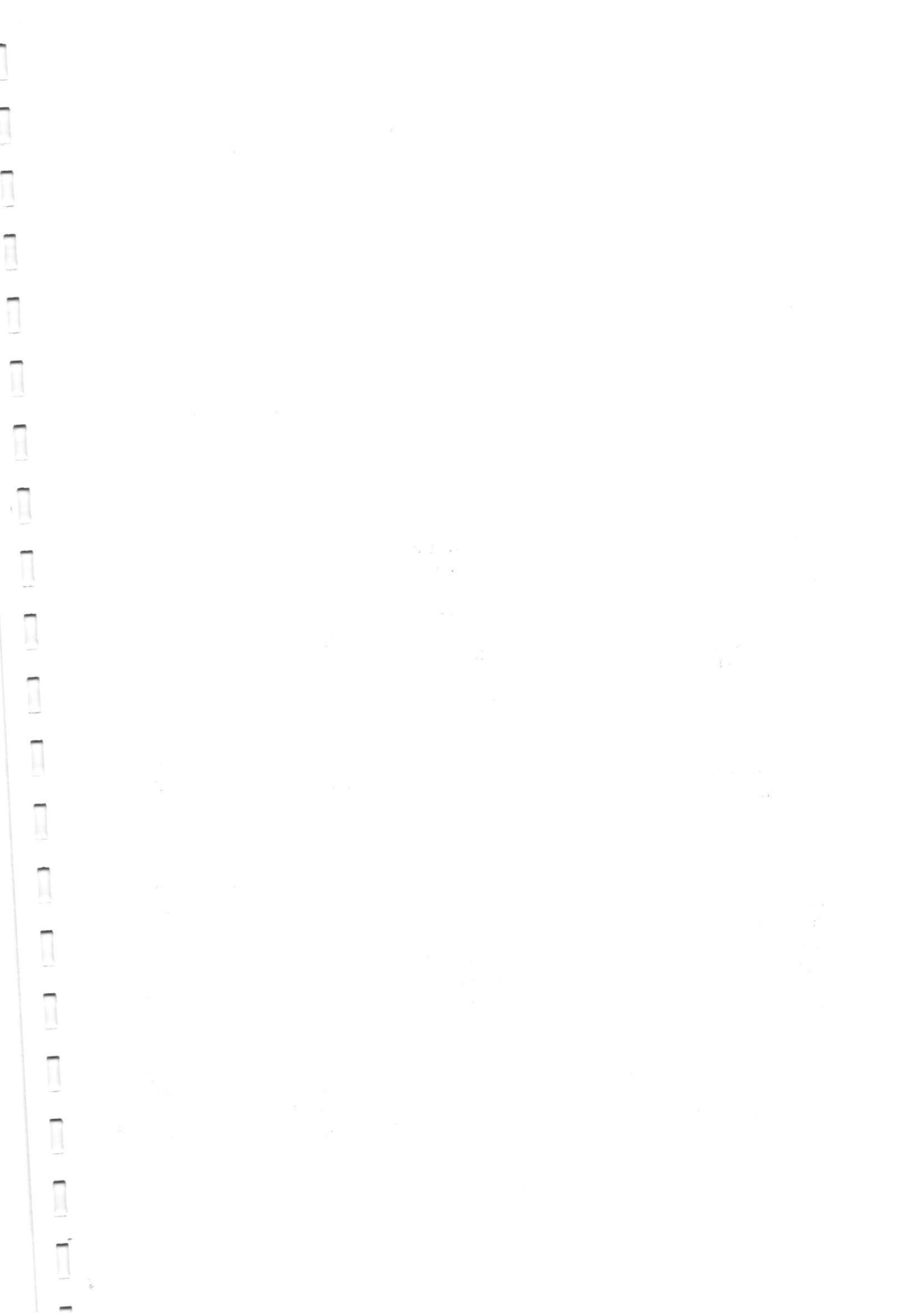
The Contracting Parties shall immediately inform each other of any changes in their respective laws and regulations pertaining to the entry, movement and stay of foreigners.

ARTICLE 9

This Agreement shall not affect the obligation of nationals of either Contracting Party to comply with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 10

This Agreement shall not affect the right of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties to refuse a holder of a diplomatic, official or ordinary passport of the other Contracting Party permission to enter or stay, as provided for in Article 1, if such a person is considered to be undesirable or *persona non grata*.



ARTICLE 11

Either Contracting Party may temporarily suspend, either totally or partially, the application of the present Agreement for reasons of national security, public order or public health. When one Contracting Party decides to suspend the Agreement as aforesaid, it shall notify the other Party of a suspension through diplomatic channels and such suspension shall enter into force 90 days after that notice.

ARTICLE 12

1. Each Contracting Party shall provide the other with copies of valid diplomatic, official and ordinary passports through diplomatic channels at least thirty (30) days after this Agreement comes into effect.

2. If new diplomatic, official or ordinary passports are introduced, or existing passports are modified, the Contracting Parties shall provide the other with copies of valid diplomatic, official and ordinary passports through diplomatic channels at least thirty (30) days after they come into effect.

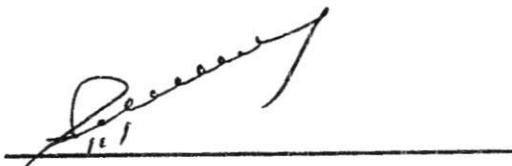
ARTICLE 13

1. This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date of signature by the Contracting Parties and shall remain valid for an indefinite period of time.

2. Either Contracting Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by written notification through diplomatic channels, and the termination shall be effective ninety (90) days after receipt of the notification by the other party.

In Witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at *London*, on the *14* day of the month of *FEB*, of the year *2017*,
in English.



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



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE FEDERATION OF SAINT
CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS**

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF
DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL AND ORDINARY PASSPORTS**

The Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis (hereinafter referred to individually as the "Contracting Party" and collectively as the "Contracting Parties"),

Being desirous of strengthening the existing friendly relations and facilitating travel between the two countries,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Nationals of either country who are holders of valid diplomatic, official or ordinary passports issued by the Contracting Parties shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into, exit from or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days.

ARTICLE 2

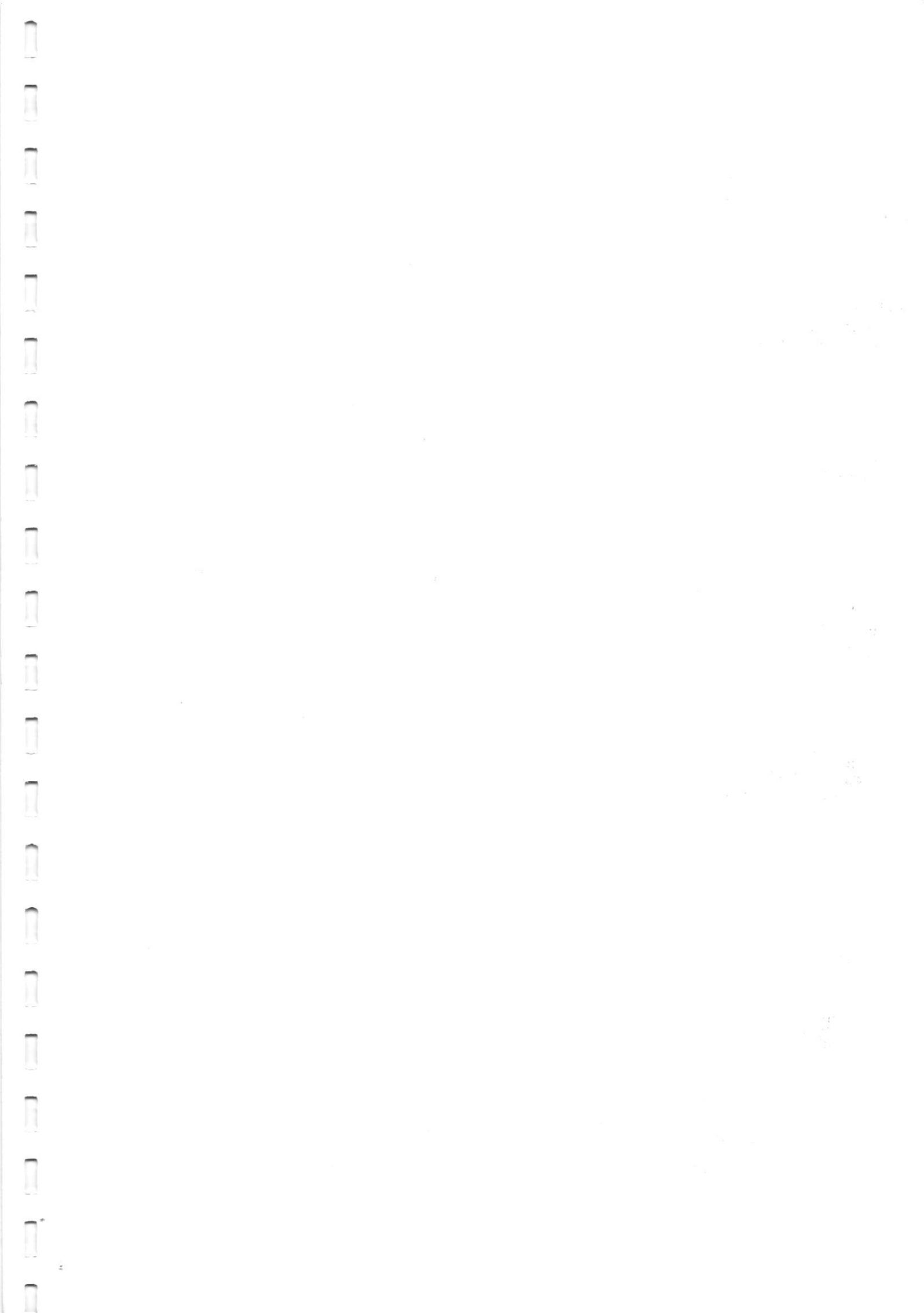
Nationals of either country intending to stay more than ninety (90) consecutive days in the territory of the other Contracting Party, as referred to in Article 1 of this Agreement, are required to obtain the corresponding visa prior to arrival or, if already in the territory of the other Contracting Party, apply for it before the expiration of the ninety (90) consecutive days.

ARTICLE 3

Nationals of either country may, in accordance with Article 1, enter the territory of the other Contracting Party or exit it at any port or border pass open to international traffic by passengers, provided that they fulfil the requirements of the laws and regulations of the other country concerning such entry, movement and stay by foreigners.

ARTICLE 4

1. Citizens of each Contracting Party, holding diplomatic, official or ordinary passports, who are appointed to the diplomatic, consular missions or representations of international organisations in the territory of the other Contracting Party, shall be exempted from visa requirement to enter into, exist from and transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party for the period of their assignments.
2. The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall also be applied to members of their dependants holding valid diplomatic, official and ordinary passports.



ARTICLE 5

1. Citizens of each contracting party, in case of loss or damage of valid documents during their stay in the territory of the other Party, shall exit from the territory of this State on the basis of new valid documents issued by a diplomatic or consular mission of the country of their citizenship without a visa or other permit from the competent authorities of the receiving State.
2. Citizens of each Contracting Party, who are not in a position to exit from the territory of the other Contracting Party within the period specified in the first paragraph of Article (3) of this Agreement due to exceptional circumstances (illness or natural disaster) and have documentary or other reliable evidence of such circumstances, may apply to the relevant authorities for the permit to extend their stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party for an appropriate period needed to return to the country of their citizenship or their permanent residence.

ARTICLE 6

In the spirit of safeguarding the public interests, combating illegal migration and accommodating security concerns of the two countries, both parties do their best to stop any undesired persons and third country citizens from entering each other's territory.

ARTICLE 7

1. Each Contracting Party has the right to deny entry into its territory of the other Contracting citizens or cancel or shorten their stay in the country in the case where the individual commits acts that violate the laws and regulations of the receiving Party.
2. Each Contracting Party shall ask to exit without delay and further formalities, the citizens of each Party who have submitted false or forged documents to the border authorities of the other Party or who have overstayed the period allowed by their visa or who have violated existing rules governing the entry and exit procedures of the other Party.

ARTICLE 8

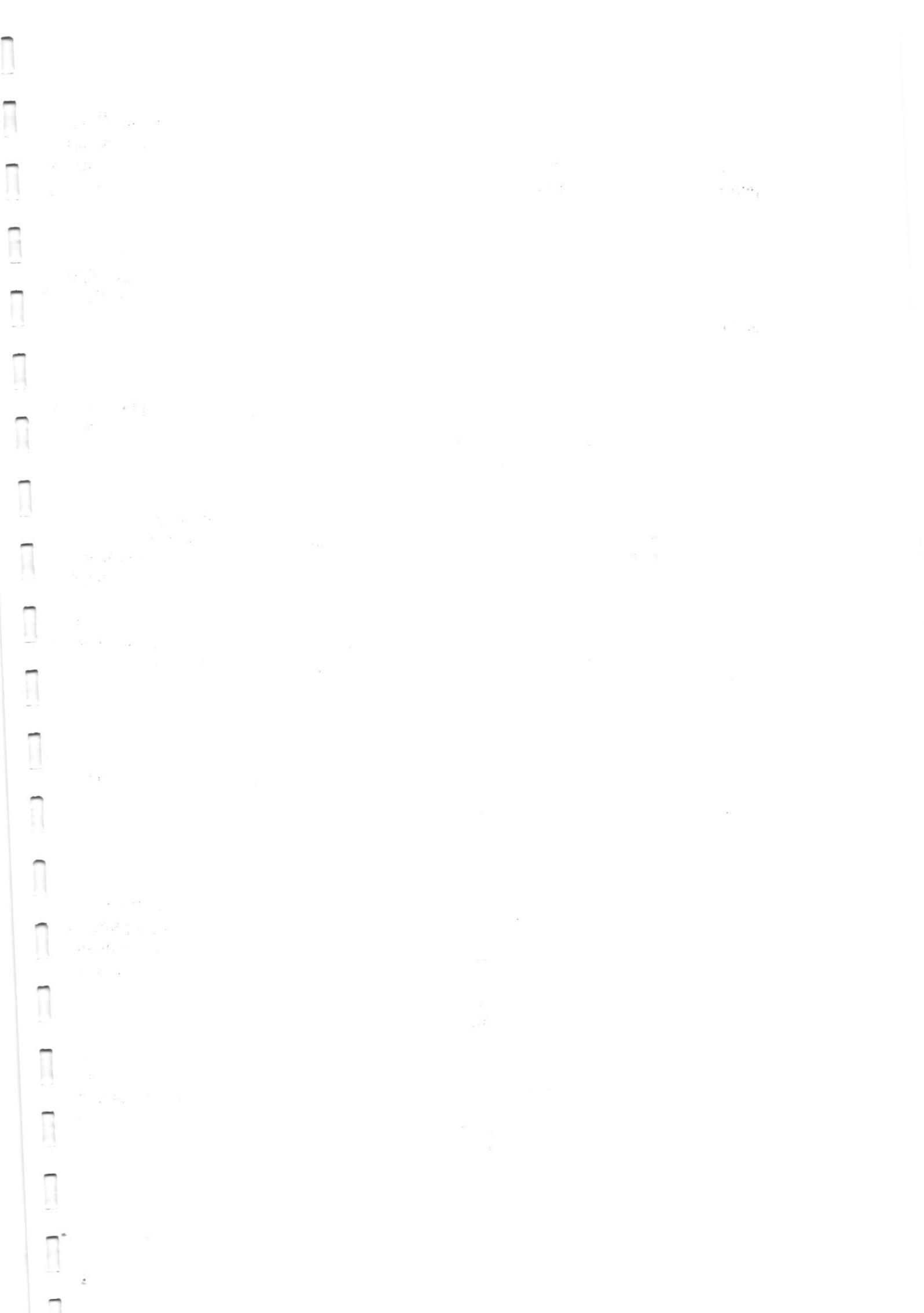
The Contracting Parties shall immediately inform each other of any changes in their respective laws and regulations pertaining to the entry, movement and stay of foreigners.

ARTICLE 9

This Agreement shall not affect the obligation of nationals of either Contracting Party to comply with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 10

This Agreement shall not affect the right of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties to refuse a holder of a diplomatic, official or ordinary passport of the other Contracting Party permission to enter or stay, as provided for in Article 1, if such a person is considered to be undesirable or *persona non grata*.



ARTICLE 11

Either Contracting Party may temporarily suspend, either totally or partially, the application of the present Agreement for reasons of national security, public order or public health. When one Contracting Party decides to suspend the Agreement as aforesaid, it shall notify the other Party of a suspension through diplomatic channels and such suspension shall enter into force 90 days after that notice.

ARTICLE 12

1. Each Contracting Party shall provide the other with copies of valid diplomatic, official and ordinary passports through diplomatic channels at least thirty (30) days after this Agreement comes into effect.

2. If new diplomatic, official or ordinary passports are introduced, or existing passports are modified, the Contracting Parties shall provide the other with copies of valid diplomatic, official and ordinary passports through diplomatic channels at least thirty (30) days after they come into effect.

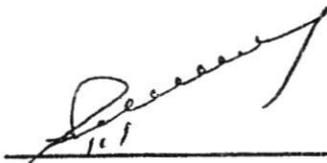
ARTICLE 13

1. This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date of signature by the Contracting Parties and shall remain valid for an indefinite period of time.

2. Either Contracting Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by written notification through diplomatic channels, and the termination shall be effective ninety (90) days after receipt of the notification by the other party.

In Witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at *London*, on the *14* day of the month of *FEB*, of the year *2017*,
in English.



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



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE FEDERATION OF SAINT
CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS**

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SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

REF: L/FA/1

From: The Solicitor-General

To: The Director-General & Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

30th March, 2017

Copy: Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL AND ORDINARY PASSPORTS

We refer to your correspondence culminating with Memorandum NO.15295/42 of 29th March, 2017 pertaining to the above-cited Cooperation Agreements.

1. The Draft Agreements are to be entered into between (a) the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the People's Republic of China on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service passports (b) Republic of Sierra Leone and the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis on exemption of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic, official and ordinary passports.
2. It is intended that the Parties to the Agreement referred to in (a) above establish a cooperation mechanism whereby citizens of Sierra Leone and China are exempted from visa requirements for entry into, exit from or transit through the territories of both countries for a maximum period of thirty (30) days. In relation to the Agreement referred to in (b) above, it is intended that the Parties establish a cooperation mechanism whereby holders of valid diplomatic, official or ordinary passports issued by the

Republic of Sierra Leone or Federation of St Christopher and Nevis are exempted from visa requirements for entry into, exit from or transit through the territories of both countries for a period not exceeding 90 days.

3. As international Agreements, they are subject to ratification by Parliament by a resolution supported by the votes of not less than one-half of the Members of Parliament pursuant to section 40 subsection (4)(d)(ii) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991).
4. Subject to the above, we convey our concurrence to the signed Cooperation Agreements.


Alimamy Sesay
Principal State-Counsel
For Solicitor-General

Law Officers' Department
Guma Building
Freetown

