

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND,

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties," and individually as a "Party", "Liberia", and "the State of Maryland".

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has had a long-standing relationship with Liberia dating back to the 1830s

WHEREAS, in recent times, two Counties of Liberia, specifically Bong County and Maryland County, and the State of Maryland have developed a friendly, cooperative relationship through their Sister State Program Agreement, dated August 27, 2007;

WHEREAS, the country of Liberia possesses industrial expertise in shipping, agriculture, renewable energy, critical minerals and rare elements on the periodic table, and other areas; and the State of Maryland has expertise in the life sciences, scientific research, new technologies and innovations, education, agriculture, transportation, shipping, and environmental protection;

WHEREAS, Liberia and the State of Maryland wish to deepen their ties of friendship by working together on concrete initiatives and exchanges in business, finance, trade, economic development, agriculture, health, scientific research, education, technology, transportation, shipping, and environmental protection;

WHEREAS, Liberia and the State of Maryland desire to establish a strategic partnership within a framework of cooperation and collaboration to accomplish their mutual projects and activities as set forth in this Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU);

AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or Cooperation Agreement, establishes a framework for cooperation between the Parties with the purpose of developing activities or projects in areas of common interest likely to generate benefits for Liberia and the State of Maryland. Within this framework, the Parties encourage the development of partnerships between public, private or associative organizations and institutions, particularly those of government agencies, civil society, and the business community of Liberia and Maryland, so as to work towards economic development, educational enrichment, and sustainable environmental and social protection.

ARTICLE 2 NON-BINDING EFFECT

This MOU expresses the Parties' good faith intention to cooperate and collaborate in developing the activities and projects described herein, using their financial and other resources at their discretion. The MOU does not legally bind the Parties and is not considered a treaty under the Vienna Convention. In addition, the MOU is limited to (a) each Party's appropriation of sufficient funds to carry out their intended cooperation and collaboration on mutual activities and projects, (b) each Party's required compliance with the respective laws, rules, and regulations that are applicable, and (c) compliance with oversight by the Liberia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs under Title 13 of the Liberian Code of Laws.

ARTICLE 3 AREAS OF COOPERATION

Without excluding other areas of cooperation deemed strategic which they may agree upon at a later date, the Parties will cooperate and collaborate with one another in some or all of the following sectors of common interest:

- a) Support for Liberia's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), particularly in the pillars of Economic Transformation, Infrastructure, and Human Capital Development. This includes cooperation in agricultural value-chain development, small and medium enterprise (SME) promotion, vocational and technical education, youth and women entrepreneurship, renewable energy systems, and sustainable road, port, and digital infrastructure projects.
- b) Joint initiatives to advance industrial processing of agricultural and natural resources, strengthen maritime training and logistics, and promote public-private partnerships for inclusive job creation in alignment with Liberia's national development priorities.

- c) Agriculture, seafood, and related technological innovations, including the enhancement of existing programs (such as at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the University of Liberia);
- d) Educational exchanges for undergraduate and high school students and their professors and teachers, in particular youth mobility and educational enrichment;
- e) Private sector investment in strategic industries, inbound and outbound trade, shipping, transportation modernization, and access to new markets;
- f) Combating climate change, support for climate-change resilient communities, environmental protection and addressing damage to the environment, renewable energies, innovative green technologies, and biodiversity preservation;
- g) Exchanges in Disaster Emergency Management;
- h) Life sciences, biotechnology, BioHealth, medical technology, and medical equipment;
- i) Cybersecurity training programs, Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, quantum computing, and digital and emerging technologies;
- j) Culture and tourism.

ARTICLE 4

MEANS OF ACTION

In order to achieve their objectives and to maintain effective and continuous cooperation and collaboration, the Parties will undertake some or all of the following actions:

- a) Identifying and coordinating flagship projects within the ARREST Agenda's pillars—such as agricultural modernization, rural electrification, transport corridor rehabilitation, digital skills enhancement, and higher education partnerships—through targeted exchanges, feasibility studies, and technical assistance programs.
- b) Mobilizing diaspora expertise and investment from Liberians and Maryland residents to support key programs under the AAID, particularly in health, education, and private sector development.
- c) The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in Washington, D.C., shall serve as the Coordinating Agency for the implementation, facilitation, and monitoring of this Memorandum of Understanding, in close collaboration with the State of Maryland and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Liberian line ministries.
- d) Holding high-level political meetings to exchange information, documentation, expertise, and best practices on topics of common interest;

- e) Attending and participating in trade shows and other relevant meetings in both regions, both virtually and in-person;
- f) Meeting at trade shows and other similar meetings in other countries;
- g) Exchanging experts, professors, and professionals in the Parties' respective regions as part of training, research, and innovation activities;
- h) Implementing joint cooperation initiatives in areas of common interest, and launching calls for new activities and projects;
- i) Organizing conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and fairs in the Parties' respective regions;
- j) Establishing Working Group(s) to meet virtually on a semi-annual or other regular basis as set forth in Article 5.

ARTICLE 5

IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH A WORKING GROUP

In order to implement this MOU, the Parties will establish a Liberia-State of Maryland Working Group consisting of three to five representatives appointed by each Party. These representatives may be a Party's officials or citizen volunteers duly appointed by a Party. Among these representatives, Liberia will appoint permanent representatives from both Bong County and Maryland County, and from adjoining counties, and Liberia's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Local Government who will initially shepherd the Liberia-State of Maryland relationship, continuing the existing positive relationship between these two Counties and the State of Maryland.

Unless the Parties agree to a different time period, the Working Group will meet semi-annually, by rotation, in Maryland and Liberia or by videoconference, when expedient or otherwise to establish and update an action plan arising from this MOU. The Liberia-State of Maryland Working Group is also responsible for:

- a) Ensuring that projects undertaken under this MOU align with the goals of Liberia's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, especially in advancing sustainable economic transformation, infrastructure expansion, and human capital growth.
- b) Coordinating through the Embassy of Liberia in Washington, D.C., which shall serve as the central liaison between both Parties, facilitating communication, monitoring project progress, and ensuring consistency with national development frameworks.
- c) Identifying and approving activities and projects to be carried out as part of a cooperation program, in priority sectors of common interest;
- d) Establishing the terms and conditions for carrying out the agreed activities or projects, and determining the resources required from each Party for their implementation;
- e) Reviewing the progress of ongoing activities or projects, assessing their results, and making any necessary adjustments;

- f) Considering any other matter relating to the application and interpretation of this MOU.

ARTICLE 6 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Each of the Parties will establish, as far as it is concerned, the necessary mechanisms for consultation and coordination with those interested in the cooperation and exchanges provided for in this MOU. The Parties may encourage the participation of the public or private institutions whose activities affect the areas and sectors listed in Article 3 and who support implementation of this MOU.

ARTICLE 7 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

In effecting this MOU, the Parties agree that they will exchange information. Each Party authorizes the other Party to use any exchanged information only for the purposes of this MOU, consistent with any communications and policy operations of each Party that are carried out in implementing this MOU.

ARTICLE 8 EXPANSION CLAUSE

The Parties may expand this MOU by mutual consent to include new areas of cooperation or to increase existing levels of cooperation and supplement them, as appropriate, through the signing of supplementary agreements, minutes, reports, or any other joint documents relating to specific sectors, activities, or projects.

ARTICLE 9 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The implementation of cooperation activities and projects under this MOU remains subject to each Party's available budgetary resources dedicated to international cooperation. Each Party is financially responsible for its own work and expenses in furtherance of this MOU and shall not impose any financial or other liability upon the other Party.

ARTICLE 10 NON-EXCLUSIVITY

This MOU does not limit the ability of a Party to conclude any similar arrangement with any other country or state.

ARTICLE 11
AMENDMENT AND MODIFICATION

This MOU may be amended at any time, by mutual agreement of the Parties, by an exchange of letters or other official means, specifying the effective date of the amendment. Any such amendment or modification shall be attached to and made part of this MOU.

ARTICLE 12
TERM OF THIS MOU

This MOU enters into force and effect on the day it is signed by the Parties ("the Effective Date") for a period of five (5) years. This MOU shall remain in force from the Effective Date for a period of five (5) years unless otherwise modified, renewed, or terminated according to the terms of this MOU. Prior to its five-year expiration date, the Parties will consult with one another and engage in a structured assessment of their relationship before this MOU is renewed.

ARTICLE 13
TERMINATION

Either Party Liberia, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or the State of Maryland may terminate this MOU by giving written notice to the other Party at least six (6) months in advance. If such notice is given, the Parties shall take the necessary steps to ensure the completion of any activities or projects undertaken jointly in accordance with this MOU. Upon termination, the Parties shall preserve all records derived in furtherance of this MOU.

ARTICLE 14
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this MOU shall be resolved by negotiation between the Parties, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the State of Maryland. The Parties reaffirm that this Memorandum of Understanding shall be guided by the principle of friendly relations between States. In the event of any disagreement or dispute concerning the interpretation, application, or implementation of this MOU, such dispute shall be resolved amicably through consultation and, if necessary, by the principles of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR), including mediation or conciliation, to preserve the spirit of partnership and mutual respect.

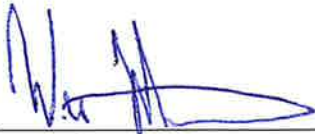
ARTICLE 15
RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING SISTER STATE PROGRAM AGREEMENT

This MOU shall supersede and replace, as of the Effective Date, the existing Sister State Program Agreement Between the State of Maryland of the United States of America and Bong County and Maryland County of the Republic of Liberia, signed in the city of Annapolis on August 27, 2007.

RECORD AND SIGNATURES

This MOU is prepared in two copies, both in English. Each Party shall retain one copy of each signed MOU for **their** records.

Signed in Annapolis, MD, on June, 24, 2026, in duplicate, in English, both texts being equally authentic.

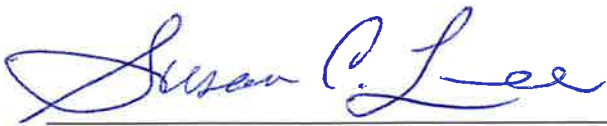


Wes Moore
Governor, State of Maryland



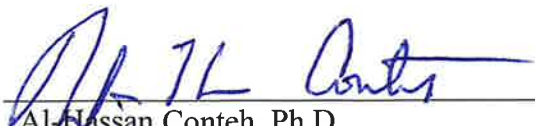
H.E. Mme. Sara Beysolow Nyanti
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia

In the presence of:



Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State, Maryland

In the presence of:



Al-Hassan Conteh, Ph.D
Ambassador of Liberia to the United States