

Final communiqué of the Second Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia

January 16 to 18 2016, Guiglo, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

The second Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) between the Republic Liberia and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire took place from January 16 to 18 January 2016 in Guiglo, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

The primary objective of this 2016 JCCEM was to review resolutions adopted in Zwedru and progress made thus far since the first JCCEM held in October 2013;

This meeting was also held with the view to enhance bilateral cooperation for social cohesion between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire in the context of the implementation of the Quadripartite High Level Meeting between the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), held on 10 March 2015 in Abidjan.

This Meeting was attended by:

- **Her Excellency, Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf**, President of the Republic of Liberia.
- **His Excellency, Mister Alassane OUATTARA**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

The two Heads of States commended the holding of the second Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) from the border area of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire which allowed participants to exchange on the following issues: refugees, security, reconciliation, social cohesion and peace in the border areas.

Both Heads of States expressed their satisfaction for progress made since the holding of the first meeting in Zwedru, from 17 to 19 October 2013, which

helped to improve the general security situation in the border area and the return of refugees.

Notably, progress has been in the repatriation of considerable number of Ivorian Refugees. As a result, they encouraged local authorities from both countries to pursue their efforts in view to the return of the remaining Ivorian refugees in Liberia.

Both Heads of State thanked the Traditional Chiefs and Elders for their availability and support to the local authorities from both countries in their efforts towards peace and stability in the border areas as well as improved living conditions for the populations.

Both Heads of State invited the members of the JCCCEM as well as all parties involved to continue such efforts and promised to support their efforts in this regard.

Finally, both Heads of States reaffirmed their commitment to finding durable solutions to security and development challenges in the border areas, in order to achieve lasting peace and stability amongst the populations from the border areas, which share a common historical and cultural background.

The Meeting has adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, the Final Communiqué of the Third Quadripartite Meeting between the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, UNOCI and UNMIL, held in March 2015, in Abidjan, in preparation of the second JCCCEM, in Guiglo, Côte d'Ivoire.

Considering, the recommendations made during the first JCCCEM, held in October 2013, in Zwedru, Liberia,

Commending, the role and action taken by the various stakeholders, including the Traditional Chiefs, Youth and Women representatives, for the implementation of the resolutions adopted in Zwedru,

Praising, the excellent cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, including in the technical, economic and military areas, as well as the decision to reactivate the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation,

Cognizant, of the progress made within the framework of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between both countries aiming at restoring peace, stability and security along the cross-border area,

Praising, initiatives undertaken by both countries with view to restoring peace and stability and further ***encouraging*** both Governments to continue in their efforts to consolidate the results obtained so far,

Considering that, all initiatives, structures and institutions put in place contributed to the improvement of the situation in the border area,

Acknowledging, the efforts and the constant support provided by UNOCI and UNMIL to local populations and to the security and defence forces from both countries on cross-border security issues,

Welcoming, the good cooperation between political and administrative Authorities of both countries and the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), which led to the effective resumption of voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees,

Noting, however that the security situation prevailing in the border area remains fragile, thus requiring continuous and strengthened efforts in sub-region towards the consolidation of peace and security by means of regular cross-border meetings,

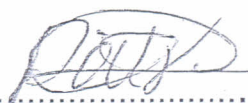
Now therefore, we, the Chiefs, Elders, Youth and Women Representatives from the border area of both countries, resolved to:

- 1- Implement the resolutions of the second JCEM held from 16 to 18 January 2016, in Guiglo;
- 2- Cooperate with political and administrative Authorities, refugees and UNHCR in order to find durable solutions for their reception and resettlement of refugees;
- 3- That the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia take immediate steps to resolve all land occupation-related issues along our common borders;

- 4- Encourage Governments from both countries to continue to strengthen their cooperation towards peace consolidation, stability and security in the cross-border area ;
- 5- Invite both Governments to call for holding the 5th session of joint commission for bilateral cooperation in the coming months, in Abidjan in order to find sustainable solutions to border area issues as well as common interest as part of bilateral cooperation ;
- 6- Encourage both Governments to explore ways and means for the implementation of Community development projects with the support of multilateral partners ;
- 7- increase the participation of chiefs and elders as well as youth and women in cross-border peace building and development initiatives, including dialogue;
- 8- conduct regular cross-border meetings and sharing of security information
- 9- Strengthen continuous joint-border patrol;
- 10- Call for both Governments to consult each other in order to implement the right of hot pursuit in compliance with Ivorian and Liberian Laws as well as international conventions.
- 11- Sensitize youth on the importance of agriculture and support them through technical skills, training, peace building initiatives, psychosocial interventions and financial programs.
- 12- Hold the next JCCCEM, in Liberia.

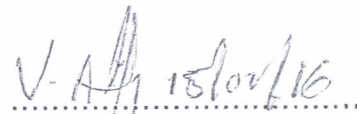
Done in Guiglo, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, on 18 January 2016

Coulayes Victor Emmanuel
County of Guiglo
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire


.....
Wilson Pour
Paramount chief of Dougee chiefdom
Republic of Liberia

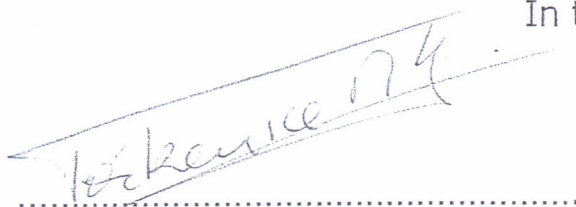


.....
M. Hamed BAKAYOKO
Minister of state, Minister
Of interior and security
of the Republic of
Côte d'Ivoire

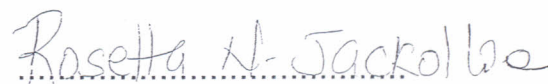


.....
Hon. A. Varney Sirleaf
Acting of Minister of
Internal Affairs of the
Republic of Liberia

In the presence of:



.....
H.E. Abdallah Albert Mabri Toikeusse
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



H.E. B. Elias Shoniyin
Acting Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic
of Liberia

