

Memorandum of Understanding
Of the first Session of the Joint Commission between
the Republic of Liberia and the Kingdom of Morocco

Monrovia 19-20 April 2011

The first session of the Liberian Moroccan Joint Commission was held in Monrovia on 19th – 20th of April 2011 aimed at strengthening the ties of friendship, solidarity and cooperation that bind the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Liberia.

The Moroccan delegation was led by H.E Mr Mohammed Ouzzine, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The Liberian delegation was led by Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh

The list of the two delegations present is attached.

During his stay in Liberia Minister Ouzzine held extensive talks with Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, with the Acting Ministers of Education and Commerce and Industry and President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate.

Discussions between Mr Ouzzine and Dr. McIntosh focused on means and ways to enhance the bilateral ties. In this regard, the two Ministers praised the high consideration and mutual respect that exists between His Majesty King Mohammed VI and H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson SIRLEAF. They also expressed satisfaction regarding the good political relations that exist between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Liberia. They also addressed regional and international issues of common concern.

Mr Ouzzine stated that the Kingdom of Morocco admires the progress achieved under the leadership of H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson SIRLEAF, President of the Republic of Liberia, in terms of national reconciliation, democratic, social and economic reforms, good governance as well as debt reduction. He also praised the regional role played by H.E Madam Sirleaf, namely within the Mano River Union.

During their respective addresses to the gathering, the two Ministers welcomed the holding of the first Joint Commission session between their two countries and praised the excellent nature of the bilateral ties of friendship and solidarity between Morocco and Liberia

In this regard, they reaffirmed their determination to diversify and consolidate their cooperation in a number of fields. To this end, they agreed to jointly undertake the actions that have been identified and convened to further engage the private sector in their efforts towards consolidating the relations between the two countries.

After examining and adopting the Agenda of this Session, the discussions focused on:

1. Financial, economic and commercial cooperation:

Financial cooperation:

The two parties expressed their desire to reinforce the legal framework in terms of financial cooperation. In this regard, the Moroccan side proposed to the Liberian side two draft agreements respectively on investment promotion and protection and the avoidance of double taxation.

Trade cooperation and economic partnership:

The two parties reviewed the level of trade between their countries and observed that the current level of exchanges remained below the potential.

In this regard, the Moroccan side submitted a draft agreement in the field of trade cooperation in order to boost trade exchanges between the two countries. The two parties agreed that once final it will be implemented. This legal framework will be a positive signal to the private sector of the two countries.

The Moroccan side also reminded the Liberian side that His Majesty King Mohammed VI had announced in April 2000, that the Kingdom would give preferential tariffs break to LDC countries and that Liberia is eligible to this tariff break.

In order to seize this opportunity, the Liberian side formulated the need to enhance its export capacity namely through the exchange of best practices and technical training between the two countries.

The Moroccan side agreed to explore ways and means to assist the Liberian private sector to take advantage of this opportunity in order to develop their exports towards Morocco.

The two sides also stressed the need to undertake the following actions:

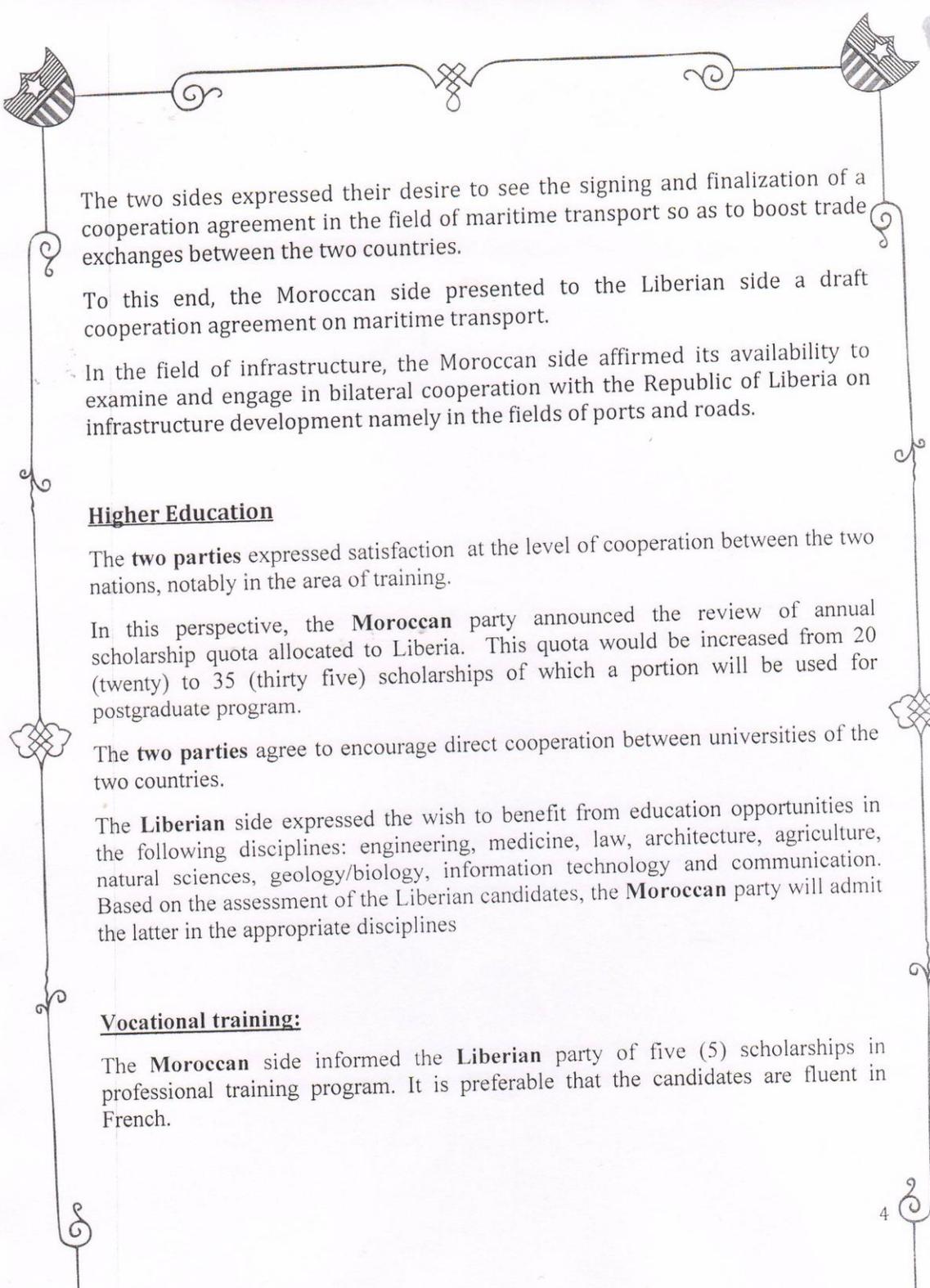
- Exchange of information in order to deepen knowledge of the two countries's markets and the existing market potentials on both sides.
- Exchange information on other markets of common interest.
- Increase contacts between private sectors of the two countries namely through technical and exploratory visits as well as by organizing economic and trade events by the two sides.
- Establish contacts between the departments and agencies in charge of external trade of the two countries, namely between Morocco's "Maroc Export" and its Liberian counterpart.

While acknowledging the existence of great economic and trade opportunities in their respective markets, the two countries also invited their private sectors to participate in the reinforcement of their economic and trade partnership.

2. Sectorial cooperation:

Transport and infrastructure

The two sides welcomed the signing of a cooperation agreement in the field of air transport following its initialization in Monrovia, in November 2007, which allowed the opening of direct flights between the two countries.



The two sides expressed their desire to see the signing and finalization of a cooperation agreement in the field of maritime transport so as to boost trade exchanges between the two countries.

To this end, the Moroccan side presented to the Liberian side a draft cooperation agreement on maritime transport.

In the field of infrastructure, the Moroccan side affirmed its availability to examine and engage in bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Liberia on infrastructure development namely in the fields of ports and roads.

Higher Education

The **two parties** expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two nations, notably in the area of training.

In this perspective, the **Moroccan** party announced the review of annual scholarship quota allocated to Liberia. This quota would be increased from 20 (twenty) to 35 (thirty five) scholarships of which a portion will be used for postgraduate program.

The **two parties** agree to encourage direct cooperation between universities of the two countries.

The **Liberian** side expressed the wish to benefit from education opportunities in the following disciplines: engineering, medicine, law, architecture, agriculture, natural sciences, geology/biology, information technology and communication. Based on the assessment of the Liberian candidates, the **Moroccan** party will admit the latter in the appropriate disciplines

Vocational training:

The **Moroccan** side informed the **Liberian** party of five (5) scholarships in professional training program. It is preferable that the candidates are fluent in French.

The **Moroccan** side announced equally its availability to facilitate a meeting between the heads of professional/vocational programs of the two countries towards the signing of a cooperation agreement between the authorized organs of the two countries. The **Moroccan** side will ensure short term training of instructors in the fields of Building trade, air conditioning and refrigeration.

At the request of the **Liberian** side, the **Moroccan** side announced that it has no objection as to the allocation of a portion of the financial assistance to be used to the refurbishment of vocational training centers.

In the field of arts and crafts the **Moroccan** side will provide to the Liberian side five (5) scholarships (duration of two months) for instructors in fields presented by the Liberian side.

Customs:

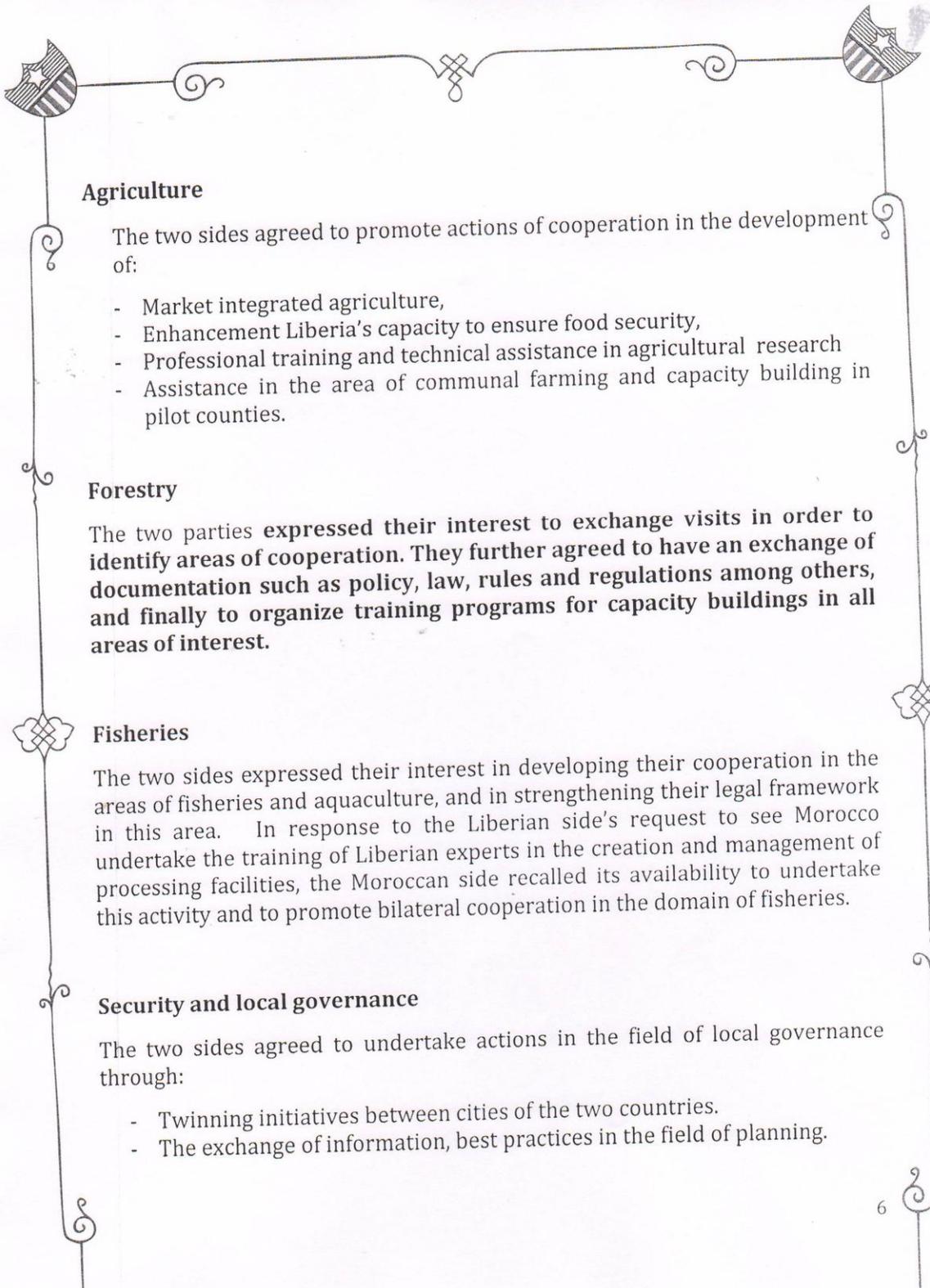
With the goal to strengthen the capacity of Liberian administration as it relates to the training of Custom Agents, the **two sides** agreed to organize in Morocco short term training programs as well as study visits. The term of reference of the training of the **Liberian** side will be communicated to the **Moroccan** side through diplomatic channels.

Capacity building of judges:

The Liberian side expressed its desire to benefit from training programs in Morocco for Liberian judges.

Youth and Sports:

In response to the Liberian side's request, the Moroccan side announced that it will allocate 3 scholarships at the Institute Moulay Rachid (sports institute). The Moroccan side invites a senior official from the Liberian Ministry in charge of youth and sports to undertake a visit to Morocco in order to meet his Moroccan counterpart.



Agriculture

The two sides agreed to promote actions of cooperation in the development of:

- Market integrated agriculture,
- Enhancement Liberia's capacity to ensure food security,
- Professional training and technical assistance in agricultural research
- Assistance in the area of communal farming and capacity building in pilot counties.

Forestry

The two parties **expressed their interest to exchange visits in order to identify areas of cooperation. They further agreed to have an exchange of documentation such as policy, law, rules and regulations among others, and finally to organize training programs for capacity buildings in all areas of interest.**

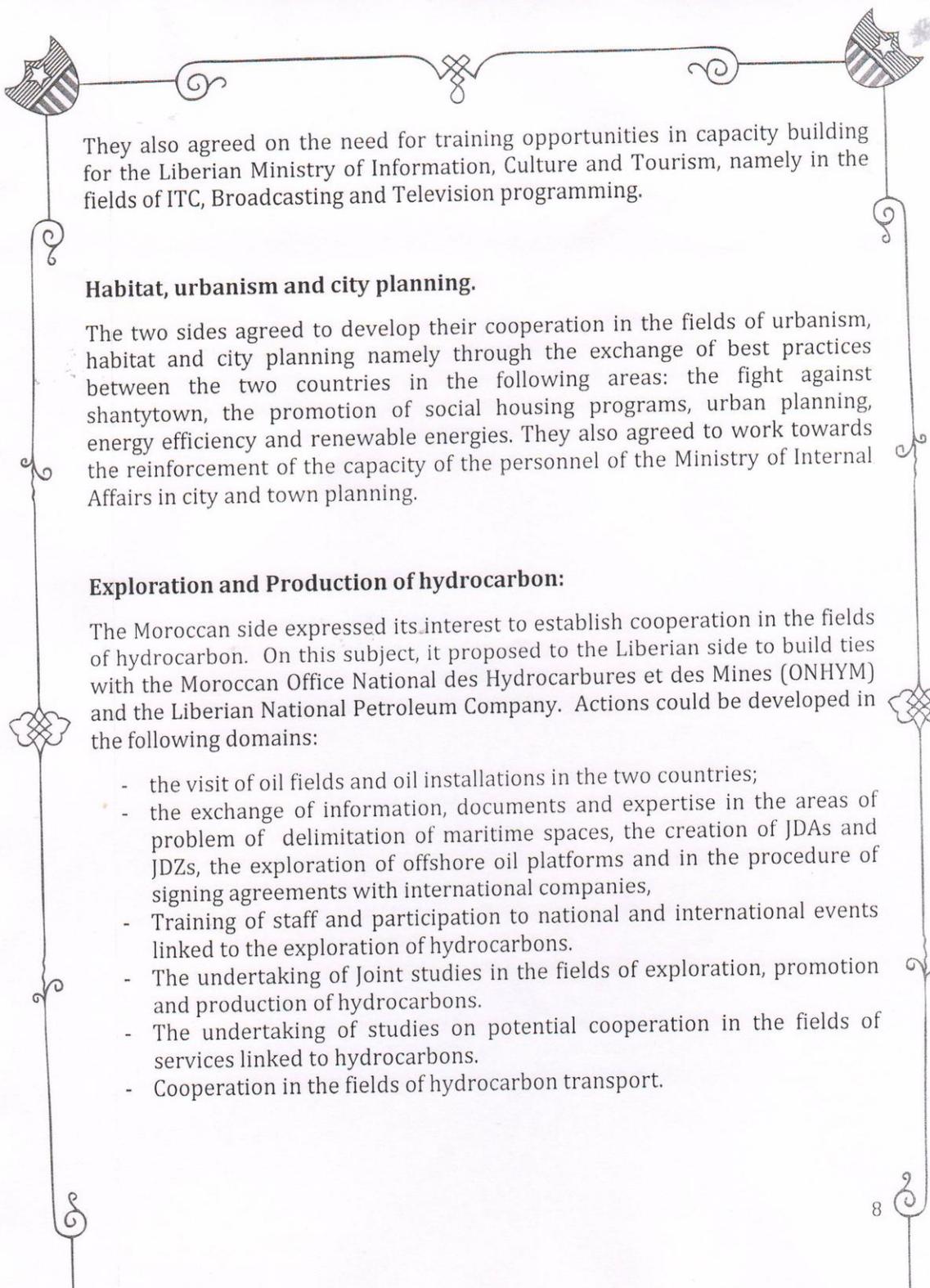
Fisheries

The two sides expressed their interest in developing their cooperation in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture, and in strengthening their legal framework in this area. In response to the Liberian side's request to see Morocco undertake the training of Liberian experts in the creation and management of processing facilities, the Moroccan side recalled its availability to undertake this activity and to promote bilateral cooperation in the domain of fisheries.

Security and local governance

The two sides agreed to undertake actions in the field of local governance through:

- Twinning initiatives between cities of the two countries.
- The exchange of information, best practices in the field of planning.



They also agreed on the need for training opportunities in capacity building for the Liberian Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, namely in the fields of ITC, Broadcasting and Television programming.

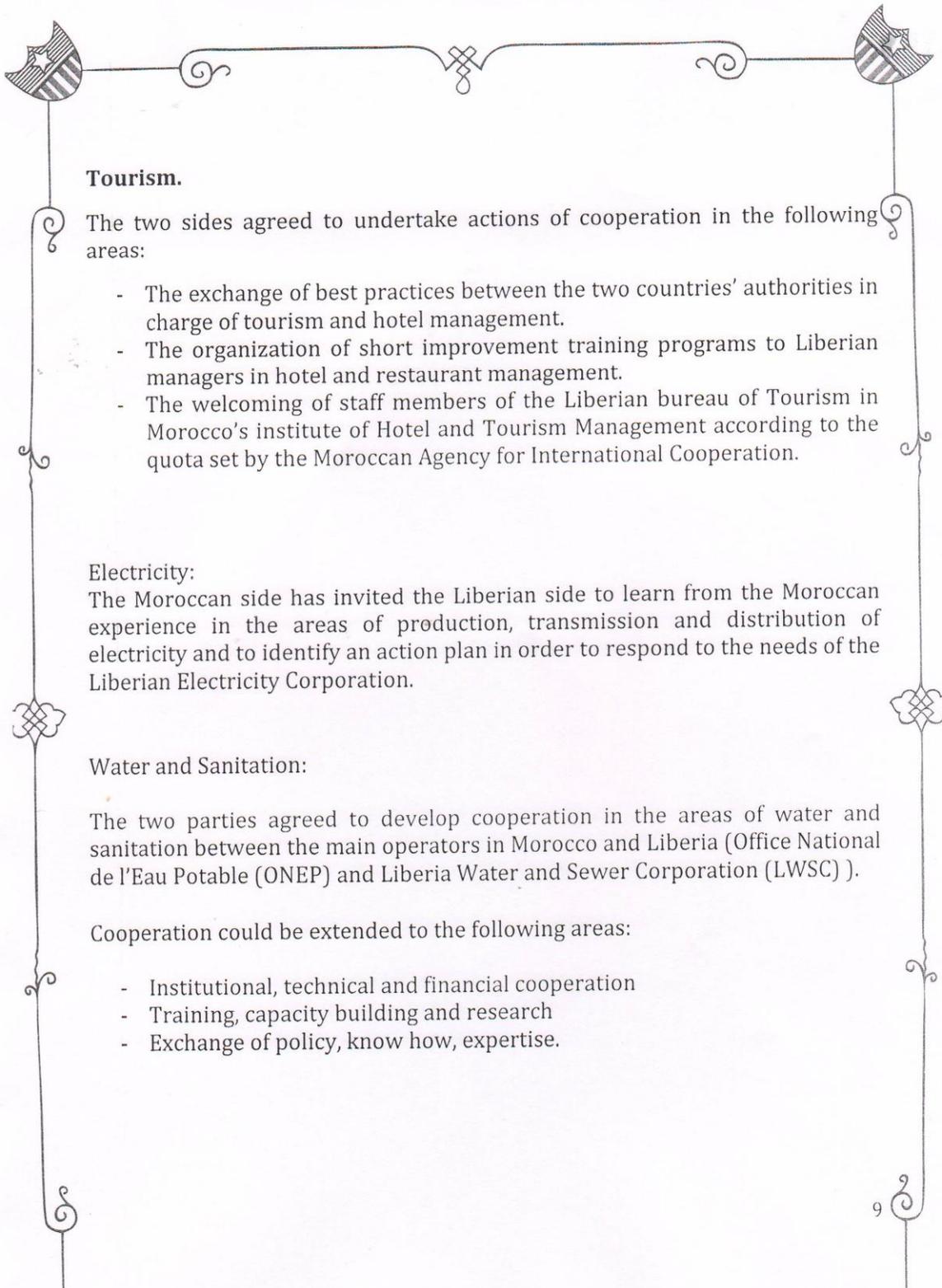
Habitat, urbanism and city planning.

The two sides agreed to develop their cooperation in the fields of urbanism, habitat and city planning namely through the exchange of best practices between the two countries in the following areas: the fight against shantytown, the promotion of social housing programs, urban planning, energy efficiency and renewable energies. They also agreed to work towards the reinforcement of the capacity of the personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in city and town planning.

Exploration and Production of hydrocarbon:

The Moroccan side expressed its interest to establish cooperation in the fields of hydrocarbon. On this subject, it proposed to the Liberian side to build ties with the Moroccan Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM) and the Liberian National Petroleum Company. Actions could be developed in the following domains:

- the visit of oil fields and oil installations in the two countries;
- the exchange of information, documents and expertise in the areas of problem of delimitation of maritime spaces, the creation of JDAs and JDZs, the exploration of offshore oil platforms and in the procedure of signing agreements with international companies,
- Training of staff and participation to national and international events linked to the exploration of hydrocarbons.
- The undertaking of Joint studies in the fields of exploration, promotion and production of hydrocarbons.
- The undertaking of studies on potential cooperation in the fields of services linked to hydrocarbons.
- Cooperation in the fields of hydrocarbon transport.



Tourism.

The two sides agreed to undertake actions of cooperation in the following areas:

- The exchange of best practices between the two countries' authorities in charge of tourism and hotel management.
- The organization of short improvement training programs to Liberian managers in hotel and restaurant management.
- The welcoming of staff members of the Liberian bureau of Tourism in Morocco's institute of Hotel and Tourism Management according to the quota set by the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation.

Electricity:

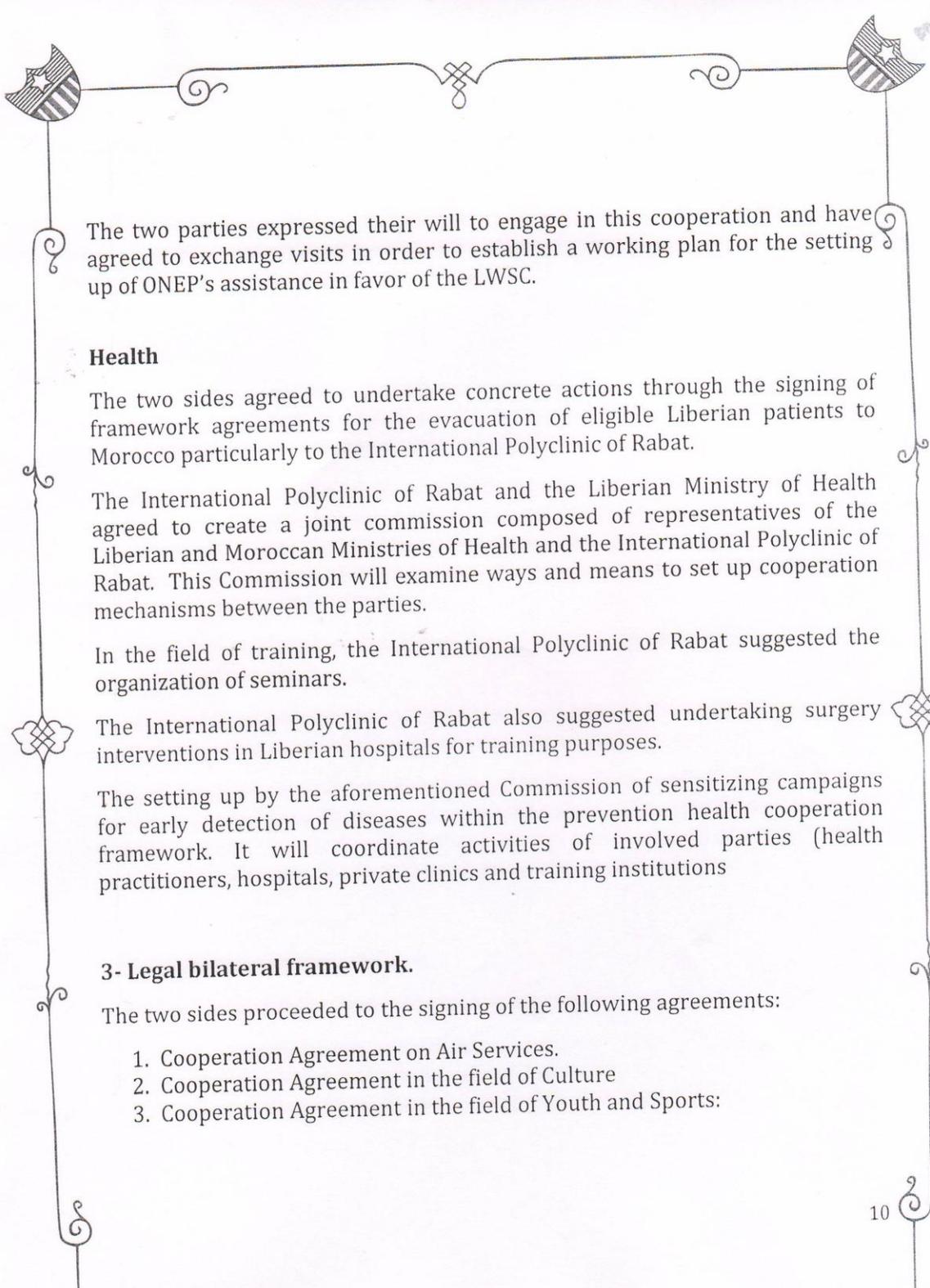
The Moroccan side has invited the Liberian side to learn from the Moroccan experience in the areas of production, transmission and distribution of electricity and to identify an action plan in order to respond to the needs of the Liberian Electricity Corporation.

Water and Sanitation:

The two parties agreed to develop cooperation in the areas of water and sanitation between the main operators in Morocco and Liberia (Office National de l'Eau Potable (ONEP) and Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC)).

Cooperation could be extended to the following areas:

- Institutional, technical and financial cooperation
- Training, capacity building and research
- Exchange of policy, know how, expertise.



The two parties expressed their will to engage in this cooperation and have agreed to exchange visits in order to establish a working plan for the setting up of ONEP's assistance in favor of the LWSC.

Health

The two sides agreed to undertake concrete actions through the signing of framework agreements for the evacuation of eligible Liberian patients to Morocco particularly to the International Polyclinic of Rabat.

The International Polyclinic of Rabat and the Liberian Ministry of Health agreed to create a joint commission composed of representatives of the Liberian and Moroccan Ministries of Health and the International Polyclinic of Rabat. This Commission will examine ways and means to set up cooperation mechanisms between the parties.

In the field of training, the International Polyclinic of Rabat suggested the organization of seminars.

The International Polyclinic of Rabat also suggested undertaking surgery interventions in Liberian hospitals for training purposes.

The setting up by the aforementioned Commission of sensitizing campaigns for early detection of diseases within the prevention health cooperation framework. It will coordinate activities of involved parties (health practitioners, hospitals, private clinics and training institutions

3- Legal bilateral framework.

The two sides proceeded to the signing of the following agreements:

1. Cooperation Agreement on Air Services.
2. Cooperation Agreement in the field of Culture
3. Cooperation Agreement in the field of Youth and Sports:

The two sides reaffirmed their firm determination to finalize the soonest possible all draft agreements being examined.

At the close of this first session of the Joint Commission, the two parties expressed satisfaction about the wonderful, convivial and conducive atmosphere that reigned throughout this session.

H.E. Mr Ouzzine expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded by the Liberian side to the Moroccan delegation during their stay in Monrovia.

The two parties agreed that the second session of the Joint Commission will take place in Rabat at a date that will be determined through the diplomatic channel.

Done at Monrovia, on 20 April 2011, in duplicate originals in the English and French languages.

For
the Government of the Republic of
Liberia


Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For
the Government of the Kingdom of
Morocco

Mohamed Ouzzine
**Secretary of State for Foreign
Affairs and Cooperation**





List of the Liberian Delegation

H. E. Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia - Chairman

Hon. Lavela Kortima
Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry

Hon. Cletus Sieh
Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism

Hon. Willard Russell
Minister of Transport

Hon. Charles McClain
Acting Minister of Agriculture

Ambassador Sylvester M. Grigsby
Deputy Minister for International Cooperation
and Economic Integration
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Cllr. Krubo B. Kollie
Deputy Minister/Legal Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

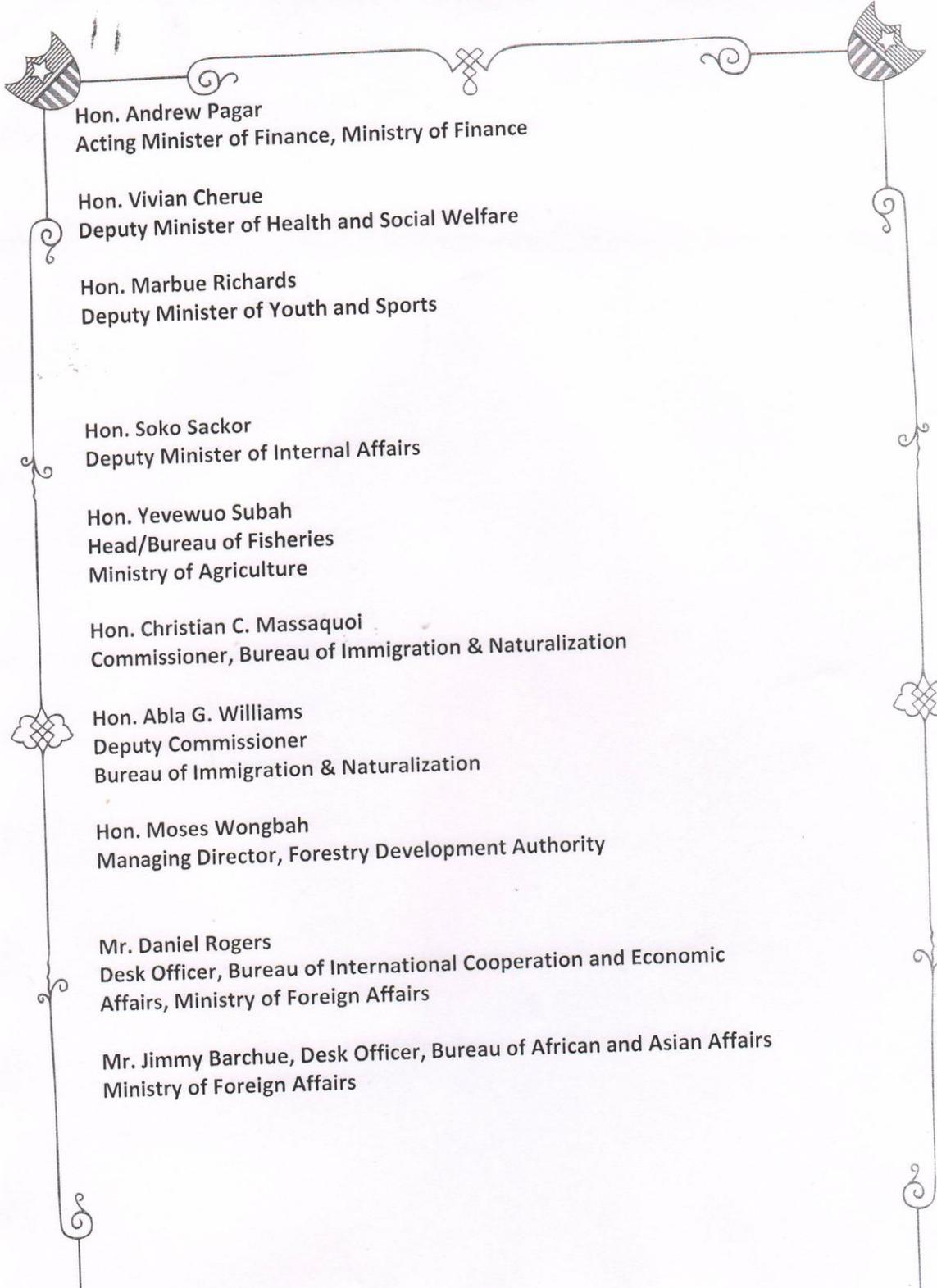
Dr. Mohammed Sheriff, Ambassador-At-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Victoria Sherman Lang
Deputy Minister of Justice

Hon. Matthew Zarzar
Deputy Minister of Education

Hon. Charles Nelson
Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry





Hon. Andrew Pagar
Acting Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance

Hon. Vivian Cherue
Deputy Minister of Health and Social Welfare

Hon. Marbue Richards
Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports

Hon. Soko Sackor
Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs

Hon. Yevewuo Subah
Head/Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture

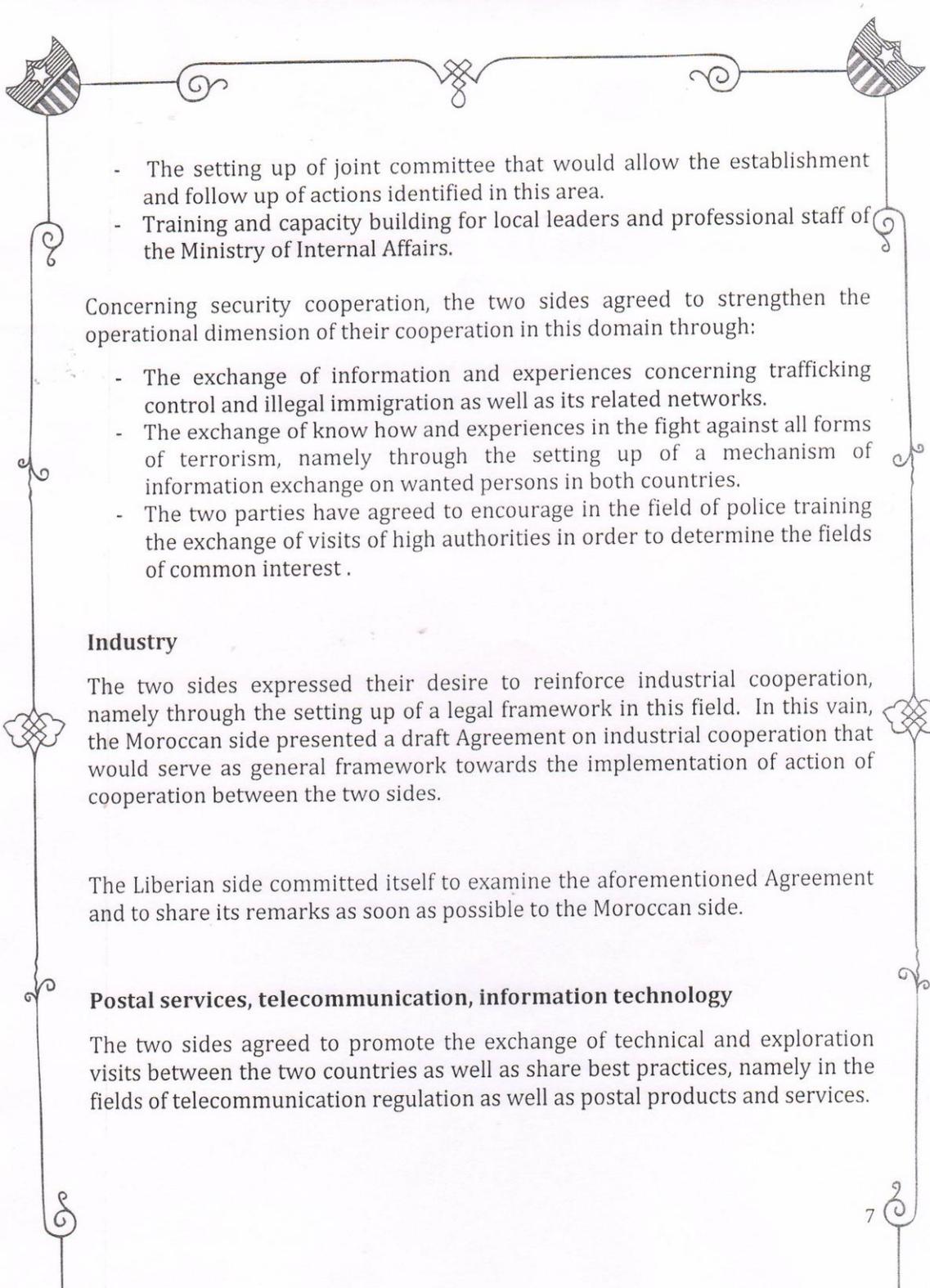
Hon. Christian C. Massaquoi
Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration & Naturalization

Hon. Abla G. Williams
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Immigration & Naturalization

Hon. Moses Wongbah
Managing Director, Forestry Development Authority

Mr. Daniel Rogers
Desk Officer, Bureau of International Cooperation and Economic
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Jimmy Barchue, Desk Officer, Bureau of African and Asian Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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- The setting up of joint committee that would allow the establishment and follow up of actions identified in this area.
 - Training and capacity building for local leaders and professional staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Concerning security cooperation, the two sides agreed to strengthen the operational dimension of their cooperation in this domain through:

- The exchange of information and experiences concerning trafficking control and illegal immigration as well as its related networks.
- The exchange of know how and experiences in the fight against all forms of terrorism, namely through the setting up of a mechanism of information exchange on wanted persons in both countries.
- The two parties have agreed to encourage in the field of police training the exchange of visits of high authorities in order to determine the fields of common interest .

Industry

The two sides expressed their desire to reinforce industrial cooperation, namely through the setting up of a legal framework in this field. In this vain, the Moroccan side presented a draft Agreement on industrial cooperation that would serve as general framework towards the implementation of action of cooperation between the two sides.

The Liberian side committed itself to examine the aforementioned Agreement and to share its remarks as soon as possible to the Moroccan side.

Postal services, telecommunication, information technology

The two sides agreed to promote the exchange of technical and exploration visits between the two countries as well as share best practices, namely in the fields of telecommunication regulation as well as postal products and services.

**Morocco Liberia Joint Statement on the visit of H.E. Mr. Mohamed OUZZINE,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
(19-20 April 2011)**

1. The first meeting of the Liberia-Morocco Joint Commission was held in Monrovia from 19th - 20th April 2011, with the aim to strengthen friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Liberia.
2. H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ouzzine, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation led a 20 member high-level official and business Moroccan delegation to Monrovia to the inaugural Session.
3. H.E. Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, Minister of Foreign Affairs led the Liberian delegation.
4. The visiting Moroccan Minister and his delegation had audience with H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Mr. Joseph N. Boakai, Vice President of the Republic of Liberia and H.E. Mr. Cletus Wotorson, President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate.
5. The discussion with the Liberian Head of State covered a wide range of issues including Morocco-Liberia relations as well as regional and international issues. Mr. Ouzzine conveyed the compliments of His Majesty the King of Morocco to Her Excellency and commended Her for her leadership and her key role as Chair Person of the Mano River Union in bringing peace and ensuring stability in the region. He expressed his Government's solidarity with the Government and people of Liberia in their quest for democracy and development.
6. Mr. Ouzzine also had extensive talks with the Liberian Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, and both praised the relations that exist between His Majesty King Mohammed VI and H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson SIRLEAF marked by high consideration and mutual respect.

7. The two sides expressed satisfaction regarding the good political relations, friendship, solidarity and cooperation holding between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Liberia while reaffirming their will to enhance and diversify their bilateral cooperation.
8. The Liberian side welcomed the Kingdom of Morocco's Autonomy proposal for its southern provinces and reaffirmed its continued support for the territorial integrity of Morocco.
9. The Liberian side recalled the key role played by the two countries in the early days of the African Liberation struggle and in the creation of the OAU in 1963. In this regard, the Liberian side called upon the Kingdom of Morocco to reintegrate into the African Union.
10. They also discussed regional and international issues of common interest and agreed to strengthen regional cooperation within the Ministerial Conference of African Atlantic States that offers an innovative and pragmatic framework of South South cooperation.
11. The Liberian side hailed the leading role played by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in the promotion of dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution in Africa and extolled the role played by the Kingdom of Morocco within the United Nations towards peacekeeping and peace-building.
12. In this regard, the Liberian side agreed to extend its support to Morocco's candidature for the non permanent seat from the African group for the period 2012-2013 for which elections are to be held in October 2010. Morocco appreciated the Liberian support.
13. The Liberian and Moroccan sides examined ways and means to deepen and expand their cooperation in various fields of common interest.
14. At the end of this inaugural Joint Commission meeting, the two sides signed three (3) agreements in the fields of transport, youth and sport and Culture.

15. During his visit to Liberia, the Moroccan Secretary of State also met with the Acting Ministers of Education and Commerce and Industry.
16. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the first Joint Commission meeting and agreed to have follow-up high level visits to maintain momentum and intensify cooperation.
17. They agreed that the 2nd session of the Joint Commission will be held in Rabat at a date to be determined through diplomatic channel.
18. The proceedings of the Joint Commission took place in a cordial, convivial and conducive atmosphere. The Moroccan side expressed its thanks and appreciation to the warm hospitality accorded to its delegation by the Liberian side.