

Joint declaration between the **European Union** and the **Republic of Sierra Leone** on
reinforced cooperation in the field of sustainable energy

1. Acknowledging that energy has been identified by the Republic of Sierra Leone as a fundamental tool for the promotion of economic, technological advancement and social welfare.
2. Welcoming the development by the Government of Sierra Leone of an ambitious Energy Policy and National Energy Strategic Plan that intends by 2018 to increase installed capacity up to 1000 MW and provide all district headquarter towns with electricity, as reflected in the Agenda for Prosperity of 2012.
3. Building on Sierra Leone's National Electricity Act (2011), Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission Act (2011) and Public Private Partnership Act (2014).
4. Noting that the energy strategy of the government of Sierra Leone is in line with the objectives of Sustainable Energy for All but taking into account that the roll-out of this ambitious strategy will require important efforts in terms of means and capacity.
5. Considering that the Agenda for Change (COM(2011) 637 final, endorsed by Council conclusions of 14/05/2012) encourages the EU to assist partner countries in poverty reduction and to accompany them on a path to sustainable growth. Key issues addressed in the Agenda for Change include good governance, inclusive and sustainable growth, agriculture, food security, clean energy, and improving resilience to natural disasters and to the consequences of climate change.
6. Building on the support already provided by the European Union, the European Member States active in Sierra Leone and other partners in the energy field.
7. Exercising leadership as headquarter of the Mano River Union and in promoting regional integration and electricity market development through the construction of the CLSG (Côte d'Ivoire – Liberia - Sierra Leone – Guinea) interconnector with the support of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and its specialised institution the West African Power Pool.
8. Taking into account the complementarity of EU actions with those of other partners and the need to leverage limited public sector funds to more significant amounts of financing partnerships, and to put the right sustainable technologies to the benefit of as many citizens as possible.

9. Recognising that a reinforced cooperation between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the EU can help to create the necessary framework conditions for increased investment, will avoid duplication and dispersion of funding and can leverage individual efforts.
10. Confident that a reinforced cooperation can accelerate national energy objectives, substantially increase sustainable energy access, achieve reliable and cost effective electricity generation and can help to supply affordable and modern energy services to the population while improving the efficiency of energy infrastructure and use. This effort will revitalise the economy by maximising economic, financial, social and environmental benefits, and will contribute to increased resilience to crises and disasters.
11. Recognising and building upon previous and existing cooperation within the national and regional context.
12. The EU will endeavour to:
 - a. Contribute to an improved sector dialogue on energy together with all relevant actors in the energy sector;
 - b. Provide technical assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone to promote and prepare relevant projects and provide the technical knowledge transfer between EU and Sierra Leone;
 - c. Help to identify and bring forward potential energy projects that could be financed with the assistance of the Development Partners in order to increase the access of the population to modern energy services;
 - d. Assist in the development of access to off grid solutions that are contributing to the overall objective of the sector;
 - e. Promote the mobilisation of the private sector and civil society in the field of energy i.e. through the organisation of business fora, industrial attachment programs, and other strategic capacity building interventions to inform and attract the private sector and financing institutions towards sustainable energy investments in Sierra Leone;
 - f. Support the Government of Sierra Leone in achieving sustainable energy development goals by considering capacity building where clear capacity constraints are present.
13. The Government of Sierra Leone will endeavour to:
 - a. Take appropriate steps in order to provide a regulatory environment that contributes to the development of a sustainable and modern energy sector;
 - b. Lead and coordinate the sector dialogue through program steering on energy ensuring transparency of information related to funding and project preparation in the sector;

- c. Promote private sector investment and engagement in the sector i.e. by supporting economically viable business models;
 - d. Promote the use of sustainable energy technologies and solutions with a view to limiting the negative climate and environment related impacts of energy generation and use.
14. An indicative Roadmap will outline possible actions with a view to increase the provision of modern, secure, competitive and sustainable energy services to the Sierra Leonean population and enterprises, with a provisional timeline for implementation. This Roadmap will as well aim at mutually strengthening the individual efforts of the signatories of this Declaration, bearing on the existing programming exercise in the national, regional and thematic allocations.

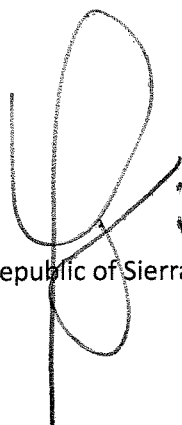
This Declaration does not, nor is it intended to, create any binding, legal or financial obligations on either side under domestic or international law.

Signed on 20 May 2015

in New York



On behalf of the European Union



For the Republic of Sierra Leone

Done in two original copies – each signatory retains one copy

