

AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (hereinafter, "the Contracting Parties");

Being Parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation opened for signature at Chicago on 7 December, 1944;

Desiring to promote an international aviation system based on competition among airlines in the marketplace with minimum government interference and regulation;

Desiring to facilitate the expansion of international air services opportunities;

Recognising that efficient and competitive international air services enhance trade, the welfare of consumers, and economic growth;

Desiring to make it possible for airlines to offer the travelling and shipping public a variety of service options at the lowest prices that are not discriminatory and do not represent abuse of a dominant position, and wishing to encourage individual airlines to develop and implement innovative and competitive prices; and

Desiring to ensure the highest degree of safety and security in international air services and reaffirming their grave concern about acts or threats against the security of aircraft, which jeopardise the safety of persons or property, adversely affect the operation of air services, and undermine public confidence in the safety of civil aviation.

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1
DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms:

1. "Convention" means the Convention on International Civil Aviation opened for signature at Chicago on the seventh day of December, 1944 and includes any Annexes and amendments adopted under Articles (90) and (94) of the Convention thereof so far as those Annexes and amendments have become effective for or been ratified by both Contracting Parties;
2. "Aeronautical Authorities" means in the case of the Government of Republic of Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority and in the case of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the General Authority of Civil Aviation, in both cases, any other person or body authorized to perform any functions presently exercised by the said Aeronautical Authorities;
3. "designated airline" means an airline, designated and authorized in accordance with Article 3 (Designation and Authorization) of this Agreement;
4. "tariff" means the prices to be paid for the carriage of passengers, cargo and baggage and the conditions under which those prices apply, including prices and conditions for agency and other auxiliary services but excluding remuneration and conditions for the carriage of mail;
5. "territory" in relation to a State has the meaning assigned to it in Article (2) of the Convention;
6. "air service", "International air service", "airline" and "stop for non-traffic purposes" have the meaning respectively assigned to them in Article (96) of the Convention;
7. "Agreement" means this Agreement, its Annex and any amendments thereto;
8. "Schedule" means the Schedule of the routes to operate air transportation services annexed to this Agreement and any amendments thereto as agreed in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 (Consultation and Amendment) of this Agreement;
9. "capacity" in relation to "an aircraft" means the payload of that aircraft available on a route or section of a route;
10. "spare parts" means articles of a repair or replacement nature for incorporation in an aircraft, including engines;
11. "regular equipment" means articles, other than stores and spare parts of a removable nature, for use on board an aircraft during flight, including first aid and survival equipment;
12. "facilities and airport charges" means charges made to airlines for the provision of aircraft, their crews and passengers of airport and air navigation facilities, including related services and facilities;

13. "air transportation" means the public carriage by aircraft of passengers, baggage, cargo and mail, separately or in combination, for remuneration or hire;
14. "domestic air transportation" is air transportation in which passengers, baggage, cargo and mail which are taken on board in a State territory are destined to another point in that same State's territory;
15. "international air transportation" is air transportation in which the passengers, baggage, cargo and mail which are taken on board in the territory of one State are destined to another State;
16. "intermodal transportation" means the public carriage by aircraft and by one or more surface modes of transport of passengers, baggage, cargo and mail, separately or in combination, for remuneration or hire;
17. "ICAO" means the International Civil Aviation Organization; and
18. "code-share" means cooperative marketing arrangements between two or more designated airlines for conducting operations.

ARTICLE 2 GRANTING OF RIGHTS

1. Each Contracting Party grants to the other Contracting Party the rights specified in this Agreement for the purpose of establishing and operating scheduled international air services on the routes specified in the Schedule annexed to this Agreement. Such services and routes are hereinafter called "the agreed services" and "the specified routes" respectively.
2. An airline designated by each Contracting Party shall enjoy exercising, whilst operating an agreed service on a specified route, the following rights:
 - (a) to fly, without landing, across the territory of the other Contracting Party;
 - (b) to make stops in the said territory for non-traffic purposes; and
 - (c) to make stops in the said territory at the points specified for that route in the schedule annexed to this Agreement, for the purpose of putting down and taking on international traffic in passengers, cargo, baggage and mail.
3. The exercise of traffic rights in intermediate and beyond points specified in the routes schedule annexed to this Agreement is subject to the negotiation and approval of their Aeronautical Authorities.
4. Nothing in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article shall be deemed to confer on the airline(s) of one Contracting Party the privilege of taking on, in the territory of the other Contracting Party, passengers, cargo, baggage or mail carried for remuneration or hire and destined for another point in the territory of that other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 3
DESIGNATION AND AUTHORIZATION

1. Each Contracting Party shall have the right to designate in writing and through the diplomatic channels to the other Contracting Party one or more airlines to operate the agreed services and to withdraw or alter such designation.
2. On receipt of such a designation, and of application from the designated airline, in the form and manner prescribed for operating authorization, each Contracting Party shall grant the appropriate operating authorization with minimum procedural delay, provided that:
 - a) the airline is and remains substantially owned and effectively controlled by nationals of the Contracting Party designating the airline;
 - b) the Contracting Party designating the airline is in compliance with the provisions set forth in Article 13 (Air Safety) and Article 14 (Aviation Security) of this Agreement; and
 - c) the designated airline is qualified to meet other conditions prescribed under the laws and regulations normally applied to the operation of international air transport services by the Contracting Party receiving the designation.
3. When an airline has been so designated and authorized, it may begin at any time to operate the Agreed Services in whole or in part, provided that it complies with the applicable provisions of the Agreement and that a timetable is established in accordance with Article 8 (Approval of Timetables) of this Agreement in respect of such services.

ARTICLE 4
WITHHOLDING, REVOCATION AND LIMITATION OF AUTHORIZATION

The aeronautical authorities of each Contracting Party shall have the right to withhold the authorizations referred to in Article 3 (Designation and Authorization) of this Agreement with respect to an airline designated by the other Party, and to revoke, suspend or impose conditions on such authorizations, temporarily or permanently:

- a) in the event that they are not satisfied that the airline is and remains substantially owned and effectively controlled by nationals of the Contracting Party designating the airline;
- b) in the event of failure of the Contracting Party designating the airline to comply with the provisions set forth Article 13 (Air Safety) and Article 14 (Aviation Security) of this Agreement; or
- c) in the event of failure that such designated airline is qualified to meet other conditions prescribed under the laws and regulations normally applied to the operation of international air transport services by the Contracting Party receiving the designation.
- d) Unless immediate revocation, suspension, or imposition of the conditions mentioned in paragraph (1) of this Article is essential to prevent further infringements of laws or regulations, such right shall be exercised only after consultation with the Aeronautical Authority of the other Contracting Party, as provided for in Article 17 (Consultation and Amendment).

ARTICLE 5
FACILITIES AND AIRPORT CHARGES

1. Each Contracting Party shall designate an airport or airports in its territory for the use of the designated airline(s) of the other Contracting Party on specified routes and provide designated airline of the other Contracting Party with communicative, aviation and meteorological facilities and other services necessary for the operation of the agreed services.
2. Neither Contracting Party shall impose or permit to be imposed on the designated airline(s) of the other Contracting Party user charges higher than those imposed on its own designated airline(s) operating similar international air services using similar aircraft and associated facilities and services.
3. Each Contracting Party may request consultations on user charges, and any changes imposed on such charges.

ARTICLE 6
EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS AND OTHER DUTIES

1. Aircraft of the designated airline(s) of one Contracting Party operating international services as well as supplies of fuel, lubricating oils, other consumable technical supplies, spare parts, regular equipment and stores retained on board shall, upon arriving in or leaving the territory of the other Contracting Party, be exempted on the basis of reciprocity from customs duties, and taxes inspection fees and other similar duties or charges, provided such equipment and supplies remain on board the aircraft up to such time as they re-exported or are used or consumed by such aircraft on flights over that territory.
2. There shall also be exemption, on the basis of reciprocity, from the same duties, fees and charges, with the exception of charges corresponding to the service performed:
 - (a) aircraft stores taken on board in the territory of a Contracting Party, within airport boundaries and, within limits fixed by the authorities of the said Contracting Party, and for use on a board outbound aircraft engaged in an international air service of the other Contracting Party;
 - (b) spare parts entered into the territory of either Contracting Party, within airport boundaries and for the maintenance or repair of aircraft used on international air services by the designated airlines of the other Contracting Party;
 - (c) fuel and lubricants to supply outbound aircraft operated on international services by the airlines designated by the other Contracting Party, even when these supplies are to be used on the part of the journey performed over the territory of the Contracting Party in which they are taken on board.
3. Materials referred to in paragraph (2) above may be placed under the supervision or control of the Customs Authorities up to such time as they may be re-exported or otherwise disposed of in accordance with customs regulations.

4. There shall also be exemption from all customs duties and taxes on a reciprocal basis for official documents bearing the badge of the airline such as luggage tags, air tickets, airway bills, boarding cards, and timetables imported into the territory of either Contracting Party for the exclusive use by the designated airline of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 7

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING OPERATION OF THE AGREED SERVICES

1. The designated airline(s) of the two Contracting Parties shall be afforded fair and equal opportunity in the operation of the agreed services on the specified routes.
2. In operating the agreed services, the designated airline(s) of each Contracting Party shall take into account the interests of the airline of the other Contracting Party so as not to affect unduly the services, which the latter provides on the whole, or part of the same routes.
3. The agreed services provided by the designated airline(s) of the Contracting Parties shall have as their primary objective the provision, at a reasonable load factor of capacity adequate to carry the current and reasonably anticipated requirements for the carriage of passengers, cargo, baggage and mail between the territory of the Contracting Party designating the airline and the territory of the other Contracting Party. Provision for the carriage of passengers and cargo including mail both taken on board and discharged at points on the specified routes in the territories of states other than that designating the airline shall be agreed between the two Contracting Parties since capacity is related to:
 - (a) traffic requirements to and from the territory of the Contracting Party, which has designated the airline;
 - (b) traffic requirements of the area through which the agreed service passes, after taking account of other transport services established by airlines of the states comprising the area;
 - (c) the requirements of through airline operation.
4. In order that the designated airline(s) to be afforded fair and equal treatment, the frequency of the services and their capacity, as well as the flight schedules shall be subject to approval by the Aeronautical Authorities of the two Contracting Parties. This requirement should also be met in case of any change concerning the agreed services.
5. The Aeronautical Authorities of the two Contracting Parties should, if necessary, endeavour to reach a satisfactory arrangement regarding flight schedules, capacity and frequencies.

ARTICLE 8

APPROVAL OF TIMETABLES

The designated airline(s) of either Contracting Party shall, not later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of operation of any agreed service(s), submit its proposed time-tables to the Aeronautical Authorities of the other Contracting Party for approval. Such timetables shall include the type of service and aircraft to be used, the flight schedule and any other relevant information. This shall, likewise, apply to any subsequent changes. In special cases, this time limit may be reduced subject to the approval of the said Authorities.

ARTICLE 9
SUPPLY OF STATISTICS

The Aeronautical Authorities of either Contracting Party shall supply the Aeronautical Authorities of the other Contracting Party, at their request, with such information and statistics relating to the traffic carried on the agreed services by their designated airlines to and from the territory of the other Contracting Party as may normally be prepared and submitted by the designated airline(s) to its Aeronautical Authorities. Such data shall include details on volume, distribution, origin and destination of the traffic. Any additional statistical traffic data which the Aeronautical Authorities of the Contracting Party may desire from the Aeronautical Authorities of the other Contracting Party shall, upon request, be a subject of mutual discussion and agreement between the two Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 10
APPLICABILITY OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1. The laws and regulations of one Contracting Party shall apply to the navigation and operation of the aircraft of the airline(s) designated by the other Contracting Party during entry into, stay in and departure from the territory of the other Contracting Party.
2. The laws and regulations of one Contracting Party governing entry into, stay in and departure from its territory of passengers, baggage, crew, cargo or mail such as formalities regarding entry, exit, emigration, immigration, customs, currency, health and quarantine shall apply to passengers, crew, cargo and mail carried by the aircraft of the designated airline of the other Contracting Party while they are within the said territory.
3. Each Contracting Party shall, upon request, supply the other Party with copies of the relevant laws and regulations referred to in this Article.
4. Neither Contracting Party may grant any preference to its own airline with regard to the designated airline of the other Contracting Party in the application of the laws and regulations provided for in this Article.

ARTICLE 11
TRANSFER OF EARNINGS

1. Each Contracting Party grants to the designated airline(s) of the other Contracting Party the right freely the excess of receipts over expenditure earned, in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the Contracting Party in the territory of which the revenue accrued, in connection with the carriage of passengers, mail and cargo. No charges other than normal bank charges shall be applicable to such transfers.
2. If a Contracting Party imposes restrictions on the transfer of revenue accrued by the designated airline(s) of the other Contracting Party, the latter have the right to impose reciprocal restrictions on the designated airline of that Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 12
RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

1. Certificates of airworthiness, certificates of competency and licenses issued or rendered valid by one Contracting Party and still in force shall be recognized as valid by the other

Contracting Party for the purpose of operating the agreed services provided that the requirements under which such certificates and licenses were issued or rendered valid are equal to or above the minimum standards which may be established pursuant to the Convention. However, each Contracting Party reserves the right to refuse to recognize for the purpose of flights above or landing within its own territory, certificates of competency and licenses granted to its own nationals by the other Contracting Party.

2. If the privileges or conditions of the licences or certificates referred to in paragraph (1) above, issued by the aeronautical authorities of one Contracting Party to any person or designated airline or in respect of an aircraft used in the operation of the agreed services, should permit a difference from the minimum standards established under the Convention, and which difference has been filed with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the other Contracting Party may request consultations between the aeronautical authorities with a view to clarifying the practice in question.

ARTICLE 13 **AIR SAFETY**

1. Each Contracting Party may request consultations at any time concerning the safety standards maintained by the other Contracting Party in areas relating to aeronautical facilities, flight crew, aircraft and the operation of aircraft. Such consultations shall take place within (30) thirty days of that request.

If, following such consultations, one Contracting Party finds that the other Contracting Party does not effectively maintain and administer safety standards that meet the Standards established at that time pursuant to the Convention, the other Contracting Party shall be informed of such findings and of the steps considered necessary to conform with the ICAO Standards. The other Contracting Party shall then take appropriate corrective action within (13) thirteen days or an agreed time period.

2. Pursuant to Article (16) of the Convention, any aircraft operated, or any aircraft which its ownership does not belong to the designated airlines of either of the Contracting Party in accordance with the designation provision of this Agreement and is utilized to conduct air services operation in accordance with the provision of this agreement to and from the territory of the other Contracting Party, be the subject of a search by the authorized representatives of the other Contracting Party. Notwithstanding the obligations mentioned in Article (33) of the Convention, the purpose of this search is to verify the validity of the relevant aircraft documentation, the licensing of its crew, and that the aircraft equipment and the condition of the aircraft conform to the standards established at that time pursuant to the Convention, provided this does not cause unreasonable delay in the operation of the aircraft.
3. When an urgent action is essential to ensure the safety of an airline operation, each Contracting Party reserves the right to immediately suspend the operating authorization of an airline or airlines of the other Contracting Party.
4. Any action by one Contracting Party in accordance with paragraph (3) above shall be discontinued once the basis of the taking of that action ceases to exist.

ARTICLE 14
AVIATION SECURITY

1. The Contracting Parties reaffirm that their obligation to each other to protect the security of civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference forms an integral part of this Agreement. Without limiting the generality of their rights and obligations under international law the Contracting Parties shall, in particular, act in conformity to the provisions of the Convention of Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft signed at the Hague on 16 December 1970 and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971 and the Supplementary Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988 and the convention on the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection, done at Montreal on 1 March 1991, as well as any other convention or protocol relating to civil aviation security which both Contracting Parties adhere to.
2. The Contracting Parties shall provide upon request all necessary assistance to each other to prevent acts of unlawful seizure of civil aircraft and other unlawful acts against the safety of such aircraft, their passengers and crew, airports and air navigation facilities, and any other threat to the security of civil aviation.
3. The Contracting Parties shall, in their mutual relations, act in conformity to the aviation security provisions established by the International Civil Aviation Organization and designated as Annexes to the Convention to the extent that such security provisions are applicable to the Contracting Parties; they shall require that operators of aircraft of their registry or operators of aircraft who have their principal place of business or permanent residence in their territory and the operators of airports in their territory act in conformity to such aviation security provisions.
4. Each Contracting Party agrees that such operators of aircraft may be required to observe the aviation security provisions referred to in paragraph (3) above required by the other Contracting Party for entry into, departure from, or while within the territory of that other Contracting Party. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that adequate measures are effectively applied within its territory to protect the aircraft and to inspect passengers, crew, carry-on items, baggage, cargo and aircraft stores prior to and during boarding or loading. Each Contracting Party shall also give sympathetic consideration to any request from the other Contracting Party for reasonable special security measures to meet a particular threat.
5. When an incident or threat of an incident of unlawful seizure of civil aircraft or other unlawful acts against the safety of such aircraft, occurs to their passengers and crew, airport or air navigation facilities, the Contracting Parties shall assist each other by facilitating communications and other appropriate measures intended to terminate rapidly and safely such incident or threat thereof.

ARTICLE 15

AIRLINE COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION

1. The designated airline(s) of one Contracting Party shall be entitled, in accordance with the laws and regulations relating to entry, residence and employment of the other Contracting Party, to bring in and maintain in the territory of the other Contracting Party those of its own managerial, technical, operational and other specialist staff who are required for the provisions of the present air services.
2. These staff requirements may, at the option of the designated airline or airlines of one Contracting Party, be satisfied by its own personnel or by using the services of any other organization, company or airline operating in the territory of the other Contracting Party and authorized to perform such services for other airlines.
3. The representatives and staff shall be subject to the laws and regulations in force of the other Contracting Party, and consistent with such laws and regulations:
 - a) each Contracting Party shall, on the basis of reciprocity and with the minimum of delay, grant the necessary employment authorizations, visitor visas or other similar documents to the representatives and staff referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article; and
 - b) both Contracting Parties shall facilitate and expedite the requirement of employment authorizations for personnel performing certain temporary duties.

ARTICLE 16

TARIFFS

1. The tariffs to be charged by the designated airline(s) of the Contracting Parties for the agreed services shall be established at reasonable levels, due regard being paid to all relevant factors including cost of operation, reasonable profit, characteristics of service and the tariffs of the other airlines operating scheduled services over the whole or part of the same routes.
2. The tariffs referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall, if possible, be determined on the basis of the forces of supply and demand in the market.
3. The tariffs implemented shall be filed to the Aeronautical Authorities of both Contracting Parties for record keeping purposes and proper reaction against any unfair competitive behavior in the market.
4. If any dispute arises between the designated airline(s) of either of the Contracting Parties due to unfair competitive practice in the market related to tariff implications, it should be settled in accordance with the provisions of Article 33 (Settlement of Disputes) of this Agreement.
5. The Contracting Parties shall endeavor to ensure that active and effective machinery exists within their jurisdictions to investigate violations by any airline, passenger or freight agent, tour organizer, or freight forwarder, of tariffs established in accordance with this Article. They shall furthermore ensure that the violation of such tariffs is punishable by deterrent measures on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis.

ARTICLE 17
CONSULTATION AND AMENDMENT

1. In a spirit of close co-operation, the two Contracting Parties or their Aeronautical Authorities shall consult each other from time to time with a view to ensuring the implementation of and satisfactory compliance with the provisions of this Agreement and Annex thereto.
2. If either Contracting Party considers it desirable to amend any of the provisions of this Agreement, it may request consultation with the other Contracting Party. Such consultation shall begin within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of the request. Any amendments so agreed shall come into force when they have been confirmed by an exchange of diplomatic notes following completion of the constitutional or otherwise required procedures.
3. Amendments relating only to the provisions of the annexed Schedule may be agreed upon between the Aeronautical Authorities of both Contracting Parties. Such amendments will become effective as soon as they are approved by both Aeronautical Authorities.

ARTICLE 18
SECURITY OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

1. Each Contracting Party agrees to adopt measures to ensure the security of their passports and other travel documents.
2. In this regard, each Contracting Party agrees to establish controls on the lawful creation, issuance, verification and use of passports and other travel documents and identity documents issued by, or on behalf of, that Contracting Party.
3. Each Contracting Party also agrees to establish or improve procedures to ensure that travel and identity documents issued by it are of such quality that they cannot easily be misused and cannot readily be unlawfully altered, replicated or issued.
4. Pursuant to the objectives above, each Contracting Party shall issue their passports and other travel documents in accordance with ICAO related Documents and Regulations.
5. Each Contracting Party further agrees to exchange operational information regarding forged or counterfeit travel documents, and to cooperate with the other to strengthen resistance to travel document fraud, including the forgery or counterfeiting of travel documents, the use of forged or counterfeit travel documents, the use of valid travel documents by imposters, the misuse of authentic travel documents by rightful holders in furtherance of the commission of an offence, the use of expired or revoked travel documents, and the use of fraudulently obtained travel documents.

ARTICLE 19
INADMISSIBLE AND UNDOCUMENTED PASSENGERS AND DEPORTEES

1. Each Contracting Party agrees to establish effective border controls.

2. In this regard, each Contracting Party agrees to implement the Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 9 (Facilitation) to the Convention concerning inadmissible and undocumented passengers and deportees in order to enhance cooperation to combat illegal migration.
3. Pursuant to the objectives above, each Contracting Party agrees to issue, or to accept, as the case may be, the letter relating to "fraudulent, falsified or counterfeit travel documents or genuine documents presented by imposters" set out in Annex 9 (Facilitation) of the Convention, when taking action under relevant paragraphs of Chapter 3 of the Annex regarding the seizure of fraudulent, falsified or counterfeit travel documents.

ARTICLE 20

DIRECT TRANSIT

Passengers, baggage and cargo in direct transit through the territory of any Contracting Party and not leaving the area of the airport reserved for such purpose shall not undergo any examination except for reasons of aviation security, narcotics control, prevention of illegal entry or in special circumstances. In this regard, baggage and cargo in direct transit shall be exempt from any customs duties.

ARTICLE 21

FAIR COMPETITION

Each Contracting Party agrees:

- a) that each designated airline shall have a fair and equal opportunity to compete in providing the international air transportation governed by the Agreement; and
- b) to take action to eliminate all forms of discrimination or unfair competitive practices adversely affecting the competitive position of a designated airline of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 22

SAFEGUARDS

1. The Contracting Parties agree that the following airline practices may be regarded as possible unfair competitive practices that may merit closer examination:
 - a) charging fares and rates on routes at levels which are, in the aggregate, insufficient to cover the costs of providing the services to which they relate;
 - b) the addition of excessive capacity or frequency of service;
 - c) the practices in question are sustained rather than temporary;
 - d) the practices in question have a serious negative economic effect on, or cause significant damage to, another airline;
 - e) the practices in question reflect an apparent intent or have the probable effect, of crippling, excluding or driving another airline from the market.
2. If the aeronautical authorities of one Contracting Party consider that an operation or operations intended or conducted by the designated airline of the other Contracting Party may constitute unfair competitive behaviour in accordance with the indicators listed in paragraph (1) of this Article, they may request consultation in accordance with Article 17

(Consultation and Amendment) of this Agreement with a view to resolving the problem. Any such request shall be accompanied by notice of the reasons for the request, and the consultation shall begin within fifteen (15) days of the request.

3. If the Contracting Parties fail to reach a resolution of the problem through consultations, either Contracting Party may invoke the dispute resolution mechanism under Article 33 (Settlement of disputes) of this Agreement to resolve the dispute.

ARTICLE 23

COMPETITION LAWS

1. The Contracting Parties shall inform each other about their competition laws, policies and practices or changes thereto, and any particular objectives thereof, which could affect the operation of air transport services under this Agreement and shall identify the authorities responsible for their implementation.
2. The Contracting Parties shall, to the extent permitted under their own laws and regulations, assist each other's airlines by providing guidance as to the compatibility of any proposed airline practice with their competition laws, policies and practices.
3. The Contracting Parties shall notify each other whenever they consider that there may be incompatibility between the application of their competition laws, policies and practices and the matters related to the operation of this Agreement; the consultation process contained in Article 17 (Consultation and Amendment) of this Agreement shall, if so requested by either Contracting Party, be used to determine whether such a conflict exists and to seek ways of resolving or minimizing it.
4. In the event that agreement is not reached, in implementing competition laws, policies and practices, each Contracting Party shall give full and sympathetic consideration to the views expressed by the other Contracting Party and shall have regard to international comity, moderation and restraint.

ARTICLE 24

SALE AND MARKETING OF AIR SERVICE PRODUCTS

1. Each Contracting Party shall accord the designated airlines of the other Contracting Party the right to sell and market international air services and related products in its territory (directly or through agents or other intermediaries of the designated airline's choice), including the right to establish offices, both on-line and off-line.
2. Each airline shall have the right to sell transportation in the currency of that territory or, at its discretion, in freely convertible currencies of other countries, and any person shall be free to purchase such transportation in currencies accepted by that airline.

ARTICLE 25

CHANGE OF GAUGE

1. Each designated airline may on any or all flights on the agreed services and at its option, change aircraft in the territory of the other Contracting Party or at any point along the specified routes, provided that:

- a) aircraft used beyond the point of change of aircraft shall be scheduled in coincidence with the inbound or outbound aircraft, as the case may be; and
 - b) in the case of a change of aircraft in the territory of the other Contracting Party and where more than one aircraft is operated beyond the point of change, not more than one such aircraft may be of equal size and none may be larger than the aircraft used on the third and fourth freedom sector.
2. For the purpose of change of gauge operations, a designated airline may use its own equipment and, subject to national regulations, leased equipment, and may operate under commercial arrangements with another airline.
 3. A designated airline may use different or identical flight numbers for the sectors of its change of aircraft operations.

ARTICLE 26 **GROUND HANDLING**

Subject to applicable safety provisions, including ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices contained in Annex 6 of the Convention, the designated airline may choose from among competing providers of ground handling services.

ARTICLE 27 **CODESHARING/ COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

1. When operating or holding out the agreed services on the specified routes, the designated airline of one Contracting Party, whether as the operating or marketing airline may, subject to the laws or regulations made pursuant to those laws of the Contracting Party designating it, enter into cooperative marketing arrangements, including but not limited to, joint ventures, blocked space or code sharing with:
 - a) an airline or airlines of either Contracting Party.
 - b) an airline or airlines of a third country.
 - c) designated airline or airlines on domestic routes

The arrangements mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (c) are subject to approval of the other Contracting Party.

2. The entitlements set out in paragraph (1) of this Article may be exercised only where:
 - a) all such airlines hold appropriate traffic rights and/or authorizations to operate on the route and segments concerned; and
 - b) in respect of any tickets sold, the airline makes it clear to the purchaser at the point of sale that it is a codeshare service, which airline will actually operate each sector of the service and with which airline or airlines the purchaser is entering into a contractual relationship.
3. The capacity offered by a designated airline as the marketing airline on services operated by other airlines shall not be counted against the capacity entitlements of the Contracting Party designating the marketing airline.

ARTICLE 28
AIRCRAFT LEASING

1. Either Contracting Party may prevent the use of leased aircraft for services under this Agreement which does not comply with Articles 13 (Air Safety) and 14 (Aviation Security) of this Agreement.
2. Subject to paragraph (1) above, the designated airlines of each Contracting Party may provide services under this Agreement by:
 - a) using aircraft dry-leased from any airlines;
 - b) using aircraft wet-leased from other airlines of the same Contracting Party;
 - c) using aircraft wet-leased from airlines of the other Contracting Party; and
 - d) using aircraft wet-leased from airlines of third countries,Provided that all airlines participating in the arrangements listed in b), c) and d) above, hold the appropriate authorization and meet the requirements normally applied to those arrangements.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph (2) d) above, the designated airlines of each Contracting Party may provide services under this Agreement by using aircraft wet-leased on a short-term, ad hoc basis from airlines of third countries.

ARTICLE 29
INTERMODAL SERVICES

Each designated airline may employ their own or use others services for the surface transport of passengers and/or air cargo.

ARTICLE 30
COMPUTER RESERVATION SYSTEMS (CRS)

Each Contracting Party shall apply the ICAO Code of Conduct for the Regulation and Operation of Computer Reservation Systems within its territory.

ARTICLE 31
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Contracting Parties support the need to protect the environment by promoting the sustainable development of aviation. The Contracting Parties agree with regard to operations between their respective territories to comply with the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of Annex 16 and the existing ICAO policy and guidance on environmental protection.

ARTICLE 32
BAN ON SMOKING

1. Each Contracting Party shall prohibit smoking on all flights carrying passengers between the territories of the Contracting Parties. This prohibition shall apply to all locations within the aircraft and shall be in effect from the time an aircraft commences enplanement of passengers to the time deplaning of passengers is completed.
2. Each Contracting Party shall take all measures that it considers reasonable to secure compliance by its airlines and by their passengers and crew members with the provisions of this Article, including the imposition of appropriate penalties for non-compliance.

ARTICLE 33
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. If any dispute arises between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement and its Annex the Contracting Parties shall in the first place endeavor to settle it by negotiation.
2. If the Contracting Parties fail to reach a settlement by negotiation, they may agree to refer the dispute for an advisory opinion to some person or body.
3. If the Contracting Parties fail to reach a settlement pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) above, either Contracting Party may refer the dispute to an arbitral tribunal of three arbitrators, two of whom to be nominated by the Contracting Parties and one umpire. In case the dispute is referred to arbitration, each of the Contracting Parties shall nominate an arbitrator within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of receipt a notice through diplomatic channels in respect of reference of the dispute to arbitration and the umpire shall be appointed within a further period of sixty (60) days from the last appointment by the two so nominated. If either Contracting Party fails to nominate its arbitrator within the specified period, or nominated arbitrators fail to agree on the umpire within the said period, the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization may be requested by either Contracting Party to appoint the arbitrator of failing Contracting Party or the umpire as the case may require. However, the umpire shall be a national of a state having diplomatic relations with both Contracting Parties at the time of the appointment.
4. In the case of the appointment of the umpire by the President of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization, if the President of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization is prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Contracting Party, the appointment shall be made by the Vice President and if the Vice President is also prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Contracting Party, the appointment shall be made by senior member of the Council who is not a national of either Contracting Party.
5. Subject to other provisions agreed by the Contracting Parties, the arbitral tribunal shall determine its procedure and the place of arbitration.
6. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be binding for the Contracting Parties.
7. The expenses of the arbitral tribunal, including the fees and expenses of the arbitrators shall be shared equally by the Contracting Parties, including any expenses incurred by (ICAO) Council.

ARTICLE 34
CONFORMITY TO MULTILATERAL CONVENTIONS OR AGREEMENTS

This Agreement and its Annex will be amended so as to conform to any multilateral conventions or Agreements, which may become binding upon the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 35
TERMINATION

1. Either Contracting Party may, at any time, give notice in writing and through the diplomatic channels to the other Contracting Party of its decision to terminate this Agreement. Such notice shall simultaneously be communicated to the International Civil Aviation Organization.
2. In such case the Agreement shall terminate twelve (12) months after the date of receipt of the notice by the other Contracting Party, unless the notice to terminate is withdrawn by mutual agreement before the expiry of this period. In the absence of acknowledgement of receipt by the other Contracting Party, notice shall be deemed to have been received fourteen (14) days after the receipt of the notice by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

ARTICLE 36
REGISTRATION WITH ICAO

This Agreement and any amendments thereto shall be registered with the International Civil Aviation Organization.

ARTICLE 37
ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last notification through diplomatic notes by either Contracting Party to the other Contracting Party that it has fulfilled the necessary measures in accordance with its laws and regulations for the entry into force of this Agreement.

In witness whereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries being duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed this Agreement. The Route Schedule is an integral part of this Agreement.

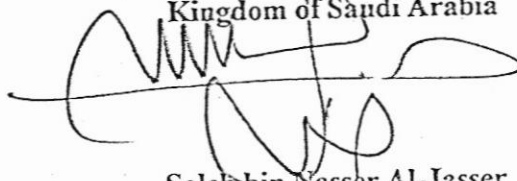
Done in Riyadh on 3 /12/ 2023AD, corresponding to 19 / 5 /1445AH, in two original copies, in the Arabic and English languages, both texts being equally authentic and each Contracting Party retains one original in each language for implementation.

For the Government of the
Republic of Sierra Leone



Alhaji Fanday Turay
Minister of Transport and Aviation

For the Government of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser
Minister of Transport and Logistic
Services

ANNEX

Route Schedule

Section (1)

The designated airline or airlines of the Republic of Sierra Leone shall be entitled to operate scheduled international air services in both directions on the routes specified hereafter.

Points in the Republic of Sierra Leone	Intermediate Points	Points in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Points Beyond
Any Points Republic of Sierra Leone	Any Points	Any International Points	Any Points

Section (2)

The designated airline or airlines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall be entitled to operate scheduled international air services in both directions on the routes specified hereafter:

Points in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Intermediate Points	Points in the Republic of Sierra Leone	Points Beyond
Any Points in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Any Points	Any International Points	Any Points

Section (3): Notes on the routes to be operated by the designated airline(s) of both Contracting Parties.

1. Intermediate points and points beyond on any of the specified routes may, at the option of the designated airline(s), be omitted on any or all flights, provided that any service either begins or terminates in the territory of the Contracting Party designating the airline(s).
2. Each designated airline(s) may serve intermediate points and points beyond specified in the Annex of the present Agreement on condition that fifth freedom traffic rights shall be exercised between these points and the territory of the other Contracting Party, if an agreement to that effect is made between the two Contracting Parties.