



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

MINUTE PAPER

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- (i) Below is Extract from Minutes of the 1st Meeting, 2023 held on Wednesday 1st February, 2023

Memo No: CP(2023)17

BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation presented a proposal for Cabinet to:

- i. approve three (3) Bilateral Cooperation Agreements and three (3) Memorandum of Understanding related to support in various areas between the Government of Qatar and the Government of Sierra Leone;
- ii. authorize the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to lay the three Agreements in Parliament for ratification and the three MOUs in Parliament for information.

Sierra Leone and Qatar share very close bilateral relations on trade, commercial and economic aspirations, and close religious ties exist between our people. In this connection, a Sierra Leone delegation led by the His Excellency the President Dr. Julius Maada Bio including the First Lady, Fatima Maada Bio travelled to The State of Qatar on a State Visit, from 18th June to 22nd June 2022. The delegation of the President and the First Lady was hosted by the Emir of Qatar, His Royal Highness, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, and his beloved, wife Sheikha Mozah.

During the meeting with the Emir of Qatar, His Excellency President Bio presented investment opportunities and areas of heightened need in Sierra Leone, specifically to support the energy sector, large-scale mechanized farming, mining sector including oil and gas, etc. Additionally, the Emir of Qatar provided an opportunity wherein His Excellency and delegation held a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings where issues ranging from trade, tourism, education, employment, and religion. Included in these discussions were mechanisms

for bringing into effect a series of bilateral Cooperation Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, which are aimed at strengthening the already existing economic ties on a mutually beneficial basis, reducing certain trade barriers, between the countries, and strengthening the social links through tourism and business events.

CABINET DECISION

CABINET approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



S. U. KARIM

For: Secretary to the Cabinet and
Head of the Civil Service

2ND FEBRUARY, 2023