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## MEETING TO SET UP JOINT TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE REAFFIRMATION OF LAND BOUNDARIES AND THE DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BORDERS BETWEEN LIBERIA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GUINEA, AND SIERRA LEONE

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### FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

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*19 June 2025, Monrovia, Republic of Liberia*

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1. From 16 to 19 June 2025, the regional meeting was held in Monrovia, Republic of Liberia, dedicated to the establishment of the Joint Technical Commissions (JTCs) in charge of the reaffirmation of land borders and the delimitation of maritime boundaries between the Member States of the Mano River Union, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
2. Organized with the technical and financial support of the African Union Border Programme Support Project (GIZ/PFUA) and the Government of Liberia, this meeting is part of Pan-African efforts to promote integrated border governance, promote cross-border cooperation and support the processes of delimitation, demarcation or reaffirmation of borders between brotherly States.
3. The event brought together about a hundred participants, representatives of the national structures competent in border management in the four countries concerned, as well as technical and financial partners. Delegates from the Mano River Union (MRU), the Makona River Organization and the German Cooperation (GIZ) also took part.
4. The delegations commended the quality of the organization of this regional meeting and welcomed the solidity of the historical relations between the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Sierra Leone. They reaffirmed their determination to promote peaceful coexistence and good neighbourly relations.
5. Expressing their common aspiration for peace, security and cooperation in border areas, the delegations welcomed initiatives aimed at transforming borders into spaces of integration and sustainable development. With this in mind, the delegations made a plea for the extension of the German Federal Government's support for the AUFP, which expires on 30 June 2026.
6. This regional meeting is aimed at implementing actions related to the delimitation, demarcation and reaffirmation of common borders, while strengthening cross-border cooperation between the Member States of the Mano River Union.
7. The in-depth exchanges around the African Union's Border Governance Strategy, as well as the initiatives led by the Mano River Union and the Makona River Association, allowed participants to better understand the mandates of these organizations.
8. Capacity-building sessions also allowed delegations to familiarize themselves with the technical and methodological aspects essential to the establishment of Joint Technical Commissions, the analysis of border documentation, as well as the processes of reaffirmation of land borders and delimitation of maritime boundaries.
9. At the end of the work, the meeting has agreed on the following :
  - (i) the effective establishment of three Joint Technical Commissions (JTCs) for the delimitation/demarcation or reaffirmation of land boundaries and the delimitation of maritime boundaries respectively between the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia, and the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Sierra Leone,
  - (ii) the organization of capacity-building sessions for the members of the various joint technical commissions of these four countries on issues related to the processes of delimitation/demarcation or reaffirmation of land borders and the delimitation of maritime, river and lake boundaries, and
  - (iii) the development of operational roadmaps for each Joint Technical Commission (JTC),
10. To consolidate progress and ensure the implementation of future initiatives, the following prospects have been identified:
  - the preparation and signing of bilateral agreements governing the functioning of the JTCs, specifying their mandates, working modalities and responsibilities;
  - the strengthening of efforts for the peaceful settlement of the Yenga dispute, with the support of technical partners and the mediation of regional organizations;



the institutional diagnosis of border governance in Liberia, with a view to identifying priority needs and appropriate reforms;  
the creation of national border management structures in countries that do not yet have them to institutionalize border management;  
the diligent implementation of the roadmaps, accompanied by rigorous monitoring and concrete actions on the ground.

11. To support the momentum and anchor a peaceful and concerted border management in the long term, the participants made a series of recommendations:

**To the Member States:**

- To guarantee a strong, sustainable political commitment at the highest level to accompany the work of the Joint Technical Commissions (JTCs) and ensure their effective implementation;
- Accelerate the process of signing bilateral agreements governing the operation of the JTCs, in order to formalize their mandates and working methods;
- Mobilize the human, material and financial resources necessary to effectively support the activities of the JTCs in the field;
- Create or consolidate national border management structures, providing them with a clear institutional and legal framework as well as the required technical expertise;
- Strengthen the awareness of populations living in border areas on issues related to peace, coexistence and border reaffirmation processes;

**To the Joint Technical Commissions (JTCs):**

- Strictly adhere to established roadmaps and produce regular progress reports to ensure transparency and accountability;
- Promote the participation of local communities in delimitation processes in order to strengthen ownership and sustainable peace;
- To set up a platform for sharing relevant documents on the demarcation of borders within the Mano River Union.

**To the Mano River Union (MRU):**

- Consolidate collaboration between the Union and the national structures in charge of border management, in order to ensure optimal synergy in the implementation of actions;
- Strengthen communication around projects and programmes initiated within the Union, with a view to promoting their visibility, ownership and impact;
- Capitalize on the MRU's experience in setting up local conflict prevention and resolution infrastructures (and local cross-border cooperation frameworks) such as Joint Border Units (to be linked to National Early Warning Systems (EWS) and to serve as local coordination centres for conflict prevention and response).

**To ECOWAS**

- Actively support the Mano River Union's border governance initiatives, including by providing technical assistance tailored to the identified priorities;
- Encourage inter-State coordination and the pooling of logistical, human and financial resources among MRU Member States with a view to optimizing border delimitation and demarcation operations;

**To the African Union**

- Maintain constant support for the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), in particular by mobilizing the technical and financial resources necessary for its full implementation in the Mano River Union area;
- Foster the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned from other regions of the continent, in terms of border delimitation and demarcation and cross-border cooperation;

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Encourage the ratification by Member States of the Niamey Convention, the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, as well as other relevant legal instruments to strengthen security in border areas.

**o the technical and financial partners:**

- Strengthen technical and financial support to Member States and non-state actors engaged in cross-border cooperation to ensure the effective implementation of bilateral roadmaps and the objectives of the African Union Border Programme, including beyond 30 June 2026;
- Supporting efforts for the peaceful resolution of border disputes, including through targeted mediation initiatives,
- Promote the capitalization of good practices and the exchange of experiences between African regions facing similar challenges of border delimitation or governance;

12. The delegations of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Sierra Leone expressed their deep gratitude to the highest authorities of the Brotherly People of the Republic of Liberia for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to them upon their arrival in Monrovia, as well as for the measures diligently taken to ensure the smooth running of their stay and the perfect organization of their stay. this regional meeting.

13. The delegations also expressed their deep gratitude to the African Union, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union, the Makona River Organization, as well as the German Cooperation (GIZ) for their continued support to the strengthening of border governance in West Africa.

**Done at Monrovia, Liberia, 19 June 2025**


For Liberia

  
**Hon. Francis Sakila Nyumalin, Sr.**  
*Minister of Internal Affairs*  
*Republic of Liberia*

For Côte d'Ivoire

  
**Senior Prefect Ibrahima BAYO**  
*Director General of the Territorial Administration*

For Guinea

  
**Mr. Bader KABA**  
*Advisor in charge of monitoring and capitalizing on reforms*

For Sierra Leone

  
**Francis Langumba Keili**  
*Chief of Staff, Office of National Security,*  
*Office of the President*





