

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MONTSERRADO COUNTY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSO) MONITORING PLATFORM ON THE AGENDA FOR TRANSFORMATION** (COMPRISED BY THE POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY TRACKING NETWORK, THE HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITY TASK FORCE, THE NATIONAL BUDGET & HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM, WOMEN NGOs SECRETARIAT OF LIBERIA) AND THE **GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA** (REPRESENTED BY THE **MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**) HEREAFTER KNOWN AS THE PARTIES, FOR THE MONITORING OF THE *AGENDA FOR TRANSFORMATION* (AFT) IN LIBERIA.

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) IS MADE AND ENTERED INTO THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D. 2012 BETWEEN THE PARTIES:

The Government of the Republic of Liberia, represented by the Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs, hereinafter known and referred to as “The Ministry”; and the Civil Society Organizations represented by the CSO Monitoring Platform on the Aft, hereinafter known and referred to as “Civil Society”;

The Government and Civil Society are thereafter referred to collectively as “**The Parties**”;

Witnesses:

WHEREAS, the Government has embarked through the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs on the development of the Agenda for Transformation to transform and improve the lives of its citizens and all residents of Liberia;

WHEREAS, the Government sees this process as a participatory engagement in order to represent the views and participation of its citizens and residents, which is a cardinal component of Democratic Governance;

WHEREAS, the Government recognizes the pivotal role that Civil Society plays in the formulation, validation, implementation and monitoring of national development agendas;

WHEREAS, CSOs are cognizant of their responsibility to ensure the participation of all citizens and residents, which is vital in any development process;

WHEREAS, both Parties recognize the importance of using a Human Rights Based Approach in monitoring the development impact of the AfT, as well as citizens' and residents' participation in the monitoring of results thereof;

WHEREAS in the past, the Ministry and Civil Society have collaborated in monitoring the PRS I with a Human Rights Based Approach and recognized the value of this collaboration;

WHEREAS a full project document has been developed to monitor the AfT with a Human Rights Based Approach;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE I: Human Rights as the Normative Framework

1.1 That the Parties endorse the standards and principles of Human Rights as the normative framework for the Monitoring of the Agenda for Transformation;

ARTICLE II: Responsibilities of the Ministry

2.1 That the Ministry shall collaborate with Civil Society in mainstreaming human rights in the implementation and monitoring of the Agenda for Transformation;

2.2 That the Ministry shall, in keeping with the Freedom of Information Act of 2010, facilitate and ensure Civil Society's access (and that of any desiring citizen) to all relevant project documents and information on the AfT, as and when requested;

2.3 That the Ministry shall appoint or designate a focal person for this project who shall liaise with Civil Society in all aspects of the project implementation;

2.4 That the Ministry shall provide timely feedback to information and reports shared by Civil Society, for the purpose of providing clarification where necessary before publication of the reports;

ARTICLE III: Responsibilities of Civil Society

3.1 That Civil Society shall create awareness of the AfT, monitor its achievements from a Human Rights Based Approach, as well as participate in its implementation where necessary;

3.2 That Civil Society shall put in place a Secretariat which shall, amongst other responsibilities, request the Ministry to facilitate access to relevant information related to the AfT, in keeping with the Freedom of Information Act of 2010;

3.3 That Civil Society shall, in the first year of the project, monitor four (4) counties as defined by the project document, and that it may extend the monitoring to other counties, as and when funding is available, which the Ministry shall be notified of;

3.4 That Civil Society shall share with the Ministry, at county and national levels, relevant findings and reports for the sole purpose of seeking the Ministry's feedback prior to publication;

3.5 That in furtherance of section 3.4, Civil Society shall publish and disseminate information and said reports if the Ministry does not provide timely feedback.

IN WITNESS OF _____, the Parties hereunder have officially endorsed this Memorandum of Understanding on this _____ day of _____, 2013.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT

NAME:
TITLE:
MINISTRY:

FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

NAME:
TITLE:
CSO: