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**International Fund for Agricultural Development
and
Sierra Leone**

Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the establishment of the IFAD's country office. Freetown, 5 December 2012, and Rome, 20 December 2012

Entry into force: *20 December 2012 by signature, in accordance with article XIV*

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**Fonds international de développement agricole
et
Sierra Leone**

Accord entre la République de Sierra Leone et le Fonds international de développement agricole relatif à l'établissement du bureau de pays du FIDA. Freetown, 5 décembre 2012, et Rome, 20 décembre 2012

Entrée en vigueur : *20 décembre 2012 par signature, conformément à l'article XIV*

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IFAD'S COUNTRY OFFICE**

WHEREAS the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a Specialised Agency of the United Nations Organisation, wishes to establish a Country Office in the Republic of Sierra Leone to support its operation, including supervision of projects, consolidate its cooperation and linkages; be close to its partners and programmes; and manage knowledge.

WHEREAS the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone agrees to permit the establishment of such an office.

WHEREAS the Republic of Sierra Leone acceded on 13 May 1962 to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialised Agencies.

WHEREAS the Republic of Sierra Leone signed on 15 February 1977 and ratified on 14 October 1977 the Agreement Establishing IFAD.

NOW THEREFORE, the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and IFAD hereby agree as follows:

Article I

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- (a) "Government" means the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone ;
- (b) "the Fund" or "IFAD" means the International Fund for Agricultural Development;
- (c) "Office" means the International Fund for Agricultural Development's Country Office located in the Republic of Sierra Leone ;
- (d) "IFAD officials" means the Country Representative and all other officials as specified by IFAD in accordance with Article VI, Section 18 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, 1947.

Article II

JURIDICAL PERSONALITY OF THE FUND

1. The Government recognizes the juridical personality of the Fund, and in particular its capacity:
 - (i) to contract;
 - (ii) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property; and
 - (iii) to be a party to judicial proceedings.
2. The Government shall permit the Fund to purchase or rent premises to serve as its Office.
3. The Office shall be authorised to display the emblem of the Fund on its premises and vehicles.

Article III

INVIOABILITY OF THE OFFICE

1. The property and assets of the Office, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action.
2. The archives of the Office, and in general all documents belonging to it or held by it, shall be inviolable, wherever located.
3. The Office and its property and assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy immunity from every form of legal process except in so far as in any particular case the Fund has expressly waived its immunity. No waiver of immunity shall extend to any measure of execution.
4. The Office should not allow its premises to serve as a refuge for any person wanted for a criminal offence or in respect of whom a warrant, conviction or expulsion order has been issued by the competent authorities of the Republic of Sierra Leone .
5. The authorities, officials and agents of the Republic of Sierra Leone shall not enter the Office in an official capacity unless at the request or with the authorisation of the Office, granted by the Country Representative or his or her delegate. In the event of *force majeure*, fire or any other calamity requiring urgent measures of protection, the consent of the Country Representative or

his or her representative shall be considered to have been given. However, if requested by the Country Representative, any person who has entered the Office with his or her presumed consent shall leave the Office immediately.

6. The competent authorities of the Republic of Sierra Leone shall, to the extent possible, take all necessary measures to protect the Office against any intrusion or damage, to ensure that their tranquillity is not disturbed and to preserve their dignity.
7. The residences of IFAD's officials of the Republic of Sierra Leone shall be entitled to the same inviolability and protection as the Office.

Article IV

PUBLIC SERVICES

1. The Government undertakes to assist the Office as far as possible in obtaining and making available where applicable the necessary public services on equitable terms. The Office shall bear the costs of these services.
2. In the case of interruption or threatened interruption of any such services, the competent authorities shall consider the Office's need for such services as important as that of any other international organisation and shall therefore take the necessary measures to ensure that the Office's activities are not impaired by such a situation.

Article V

COMMUNICATIONS

The Office's communications shall enjoy protection under the conditions and limitations defined in section 11 and 12 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialised Agencies.

Article VI

TAX EXEMPTION

The Office, its assets, income and other property shall be exempt from:

- (a) all direct and indirect taxes on goods directly imported or purchased locally by the organisation for its official use in the Republic of Sierra Leone, it being understood, however, that no claim of exemption will be made from taxes which are, in fact, no more than charges for public utility services;
- (b) customs duties or other taxes on imports and exports.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCIAL FACILITIES

1. In connection with its official activities the Office may freely:
 - (a) acquire currencies and funds, hold them, use them, and have accounts in the Republic of Sierra Leone in (local currency) or any other currency and convert any currency held by it into any other currency.
2. The Office shall enjoy the same exchange facilities as other international organisations represented in the Republic of Sierra Leone .

Article VIII

SOCIAL SECURITY

Since IFAD's officials are covered by the Fund's social security scheme or a similar scheme, the Office shall not be required to contribute to any social security scheme in the Republic of Sierra Leone, and the Government shall not require any member of the Office covered by the Fund's scheme to join such a scheme.

Article IX

ENTRY, TRAVEL AND SOJOURN

1. The Government shall recognize and accept the United Nations laissez-passers issued to officials of IFAD as valid travel documents.
2. Applications for visas, where required, from officials of IFAD holding United Nations laissez-passers, when accompanied by a certificate that they are travelling on the business of IFAD, shall be dealt with as speedily as possible. In addition, such persons shall be granted facilities for speedy travel.
3. Similar facilities to those specified in paragraph 2 shall be accorded to experts and other persons who, though not the holders of United Nations laissez-passers, have a certificate that they are travelling in the business of IFAD.
4. The Government shall facilitate the entry into or departure from the Republic of Sierra Leone , when travelling to or from the Office, of persons exercising official functions at the Office or invited by it.