



MANO RIVER UNION UNION DU FLEUVE MANO

Office of the Secretary General

PRESS RELEASE

WORKSHOP TO VALIDATE THE MANO RIVER UNION (MRU) FIVE –YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2021-2025) BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM MEMBER STATES

MRU with support from USAID/West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BiCC) organized a 2-day workshop from 4th - 5th February 2020 at the Atlantic Hotel Lumley – Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The objective of the workshop was to review and validate the 5-year strategic plan of the MRU. The workshop was attended by 35 participants including representatives from all Member States drawn from the MRU Technical Committee on Administration and Finance (T- CAF), WA BiCC, MRU Executive, professional staff and MRU Resident Coordinators.

The Opening ceremony was marked by three Statements: Welcome address by H. E Amb Mrs. Medina A. Wesseh, Secretary General of the MRU Secretariat and Chair of the meeting; Senior Policy Adviser of WA BiCC, Dr Adewale Adeleke; and Chairman of T-CAF Mr. Alpha Ousmane Camara.

In his opening remarks, Dr Adeleke stated that it was an honour to participate at the workshop to develop the MRU New Strategic Plan. He urged all delegates to critically review the document and provide meaningful recommendations. He ended by stating that WA BiCC will continue to work closely with the MRU on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Camara, emphasized the importance of the workshop and stated that the development of the new Strategic Plan signals the commitment of MRU in pursuit of its mandate.

In her welcome address, Amb. Mrs. Wesseh, welcomed all participants. She stated that this new Strategic Plan has taken into consideration changing realities in our region; building on the core values of the MRU to facilitate Regional and Economic Integration, Peace, Security and Social Development; and is expected to give the Secretariat specific guidance, signaling a higher level of focus.

She further stated that the validated document will be forwarded to Union Ministerial Council for their approval after which it will be escalated for final approbation by Heads of States. She then officially declared the workshop open.

The main highlights of the workshop among others included:

- *Recap of the Roadmap of the Strategic Plan*
- *Opportunities and challenges within the MRU region for the roll-out of the Strategic Plan*
- *Presentation of Vision, Mission and guiding principles*
- *Presentation of the 4 Pillars of the MRU namely:*
 - ◆ ***Pillar 1: Economic Development and Regional Integration***
 - ◆ ***Pillar 2: Peace, Security and Democratic Governance and***
 - ◆ ***Pillar 3: Health and Social Development.***
 - ◆ ***Pillar 4: Institutional Development***
- *Presentation on Administration and Finance*
- *Presentation of the Action plan*

Healthy and frank discussions ensued after each presentation. Comments and observations were made to improve the quality of the document.

At the end of the workshop, the Strategic Plan and the Action Plan were validated and endorsed by the Member States Representatives.

In her concluding remarks, the Secretary General thanked all participants for fruitful deliberations and a successful workshop. She stated that all comments and observations made will be taken into account in the final version of the Strategic Plan. She particularly thanked WA BiCC with special reference to the Consultant Ms. Laurie Manderino and special Adviser- Mr. Patrick Pedia for their commitment and looked forward to the development of the remaining documents namely the M&E, Communications and Resource Mobilization Strategies.

Contact

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