

*République de Côte d'Ivoire*  
*Union – Discipline – Travail*



*Republic of Ghana*  
*Freedom – And – Justice*



**JOINT DECLARATION  
OF THE FIRST LADIES**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

**AND**

**THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CROSS-BORDER CHILD TRAFFICKING AND THE  
WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR**

We,

**First Lady of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and First Lady of the Republic of Ghana,**

<sup>1</sup> **Recalling** the historical ties of friendship and brotherly relations between our two peoples;

<sup>2</sup> **Having regard to** the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana signed on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1970;

<sup>3</sup> **Profoundly concerned** by the extent of cross-border child trafficking for labour and exploitation in West Africa, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, mining, trade, fishing, crafts, domestic work and begging;

<sup>4</sup> **Firmly denouncing** that those who engage in child trafficking are taking advantage of the social and economic vulnerability of families and children in order to exploit them by using force, abduction, fraud or deception;

<sup>5</sup> **Firmly affirming** that cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour are criminal and intolerable violations of the rights of children, jeopardizing their full development and survival;

<sup>6</sup> **Reaffirming** their commitment to the relevant regional and international legal instruments, notably:

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention N° 29 on forced labour, 1930 and its protocol;
- International Labour Convention (ILO) N° 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment, 1973;
- United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989;
- International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention N° 182 on the prohibition of the worst forms of child labour and immediate action for its elimination, 1999;
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the additional Protocol to the said Convention, aimed at Preventing, prosecuting and Punishing Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, 2000 (Palermo Protocol);



- The additional protocol relating to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000;
- The additional protocol relating to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the involvement of children in armed conflicts, 2000 ;
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990;
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948;
- The multilateral cooperation agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa, signed by the Government representatives of 10 West African countries on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2005;
- The regional Cooperation Agreement on the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and children in West and Central Africa, signed in Abuja in 2006;

**7 Recalling** Declaration A/DCL2/12/01 by Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the fight against human trafficking adopted in its 25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit in Dakar, Senegal from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2001;

**8 Recalling** the objective of the action framework of the Harkin-Engel Protocol aimed at reducing the worst forms of child labour by 70% in the cocoa sectors of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana by the year 2020;

**9 Considering** target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030 calling for immediate and effective measures to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, prohibit and eliminate child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers;

**10 Recognising** the efforts of the international community in supporting initiatives of the two countries in the fight against child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;

**11 Having regard to** our shared determination shown during the official visit of the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. John Dramani MAHAMA and the First Lady, Mrs. Nana Lordina Dramani MAHAMA, in Côte d'Ivoire on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 to meet on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 in Abidjan, for a consultation on the common strategy to be implemented to support the efforts of our



governments to fight against cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in our two countries;

**Solemnly Declare:**

1. Our solidarity and firm determination to support the efforts of our two countries in eliminating cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;
2. Our commitment to undertake advocacy with other First Ladies of the West African sub-region, in order get their involvement in actions against cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;
3. Our support to all actions contributing to the eradication of the cross-border phenomenon of child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in both countries, notably in the prevention, protection, prosecution, monitoring and evaluation;

**With regards to Prevention, we encourage the Parties to:**

- a) Strengthen the legislative and regulative frameworks on cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;
- b) Strengthen their cooperation through the immediate signing of a bilateral agreement to address issues of child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;
- c) Continue and intensify their efforts in the fight against cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in all sectors of activities, notably in agriculture, mining, trade, fishing, crafts, domestic work and begging;
- d) Strengthen sensitization and communication strategies in our respective countries, to raise national and sub-regional awareness on the dangers of cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;

**With regards to Protection, we encourage the Parties to:**

- a) Continue their efforts to improve children's access to free quality basic education, including vocational training ;
- b) Strengthen the quality of care services and support programmes for victims of cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;

- c) Strengthen protective measures to address occupational health and safety issues in the work place;
- d) Improve the means of livelihood of vulnerable households;
- e) Improve women's access to income generating activities for their empowerment;

**With regards to Prosecution, we encourage the Parties to:**

- a) Foster strong collaboration and joint efforts between the police and law enforcement bodies of both countries, in particular joint police operations on the ground;
- b) Promote judicial cooperation.

**With Regards to Cooperation, Partnership and Monitoring and Evaluation,  
We encourage the Parties to:**

- a) Establish and effectively implement child labour monitoring systems in both countries;
- b) Establish a permanent joint technical committee to carry out follow-up actions on the fight against cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;
- c) Identify common indicators in the field of child labour for future surveys;
- d) Establish harmonised lists of hazardous work prohibited to children and light work permitted for children;
- e) Share best practices on victim support and assistance;
- f) Establish or strengthen national and bilateral mechanisms to support victims of cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;
- g) Mutualise efforts for capacity building of the relevant actors.



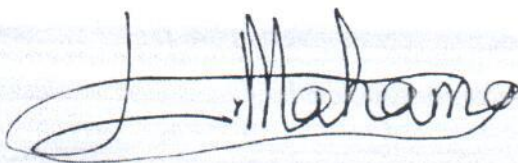
Invite technical and financial partners to intensify their efforts in the implementation of actions aimed at eliminating cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;

Call upon all stakeholders, notably families, civil society, social partners, elected officials for increased vigilance, as it is together that we can win the fight against cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour.

In witness whereof we, First Lady of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, have signed this Declaration.

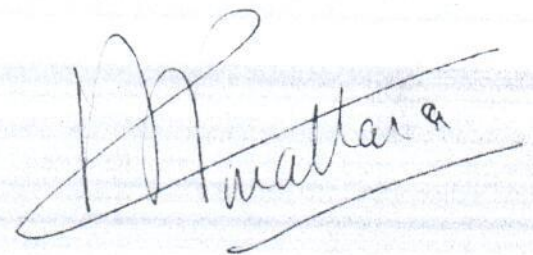
Signed in Abidjan on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

Nana Lordina Dramani MAHAMA

A stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, flowing 'L' followed by the name 'Mahama'.

First Lady of the Republic of Ghana

Dominique OUATTARA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by the name 'Ouattara'.

First Lady of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire