

**Final Communiqué of the Meeting
of the Tripartite Commission
charged with the
Voluntary Repatriation of Refugees
from Cote d'Ivoire Living in Liberia
18 May 2012 in Abidjan**

The Tripartite Commission charged with the Voluntary Repatriation of Refugees from Cote d'Ivoire Living in Liberia, co-chaired by the Minister of Ex Combatants and Victims of War of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, representing the Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Liberia; by the Interim Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, and by the UNHCR Representative in the Republic of Liberia met in Abidjan on the 18th of May 2012.

The Commission studied the work of the Technical Working Group on the repatriation of refugees from Cote d'Ivoire Living in Liberia which met on the 17th of May 2012, co-chaired by the Interim Director of the Service for Aid and Assistance to Refugees and Stateless Persons (SAARA), the Executive Director of the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), the Interim Representative of UNHCR in Cote d'Ivoire and the Representative of UNHCR in Liberia.

The Commission noted with satisfaction the establishment of an efficient system for the facilitated voluntary repatriation of refugees from Cote d'Ivoire living in Liberia.

The Commission congratulated the Technical Working Group on the excellence of its work and adopted the following recommendations:

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Administrative border procedures

1. Further training of officials of the Customs and Immigration Services on post at the Liberian and Ivorian border on the modalities of repatriation as prescribed by the Tripartite Agreement of 11 August 2011.
2. The enhancement by the three parties of a Mass Information Campaign on Eligibility for Repatriation and on Repatriation Procedures.
3. The simplification of Customs and Immigration Procedures for returning refugees and aid workers, in particular using travel documents prescribed by the Tripartite Agreement in the place of the 'laissez passer' ordinarily required by Ivorian Border Authorities.

Assistance to returnees

4. The reinforcement of the mechanisms of coordination between scheduled repatriation plans and the management of food distribution systems.

Logistics

5. The rapid rehabilitation of the infrastructure necessary for the organization of repatriation convoys (roads and bridges).
6. Authorization for the opening of an international air route between refugee hosting and return areas without the need to pass through Monrovia or Abidjan.





Communication

7. Further strengthening of the sharing of information on the profile and region of origin of refugees from Cote d'Ivoire registered in Liberia and on the prevailing security information in Cote d'Ivoire.
8. The organization of 'Go and See' and 'Come and Tell' visits of refugees and returnees respectively, as well as of official visits of Ivorian authorities to Liberia within the framework of the Tripartite Agreement.
9. Encouragement of the representatives of the Ivorian Government to take into account agreed criteria and systems for assistance in any distribution to refugees in Liberia.

Social and economic reintegration

10. Continued support for social and economic structures in particular in return areas (vocational training, education, health and employment).
11. That social cohesion activities and the implementation of national reconciliation processes are reinforced in return areas.
12. That Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) activities are prioritized in return areas and that the capacity building of police and the gendarmes (logistics, training, staff) targets areas where the security situation remains fragile.

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13. Support by the competent Ivorian authorities (The Ministry of Education) and the Competent Liberian authorities (Ministry of Education and the LRRRC) of the organization of exams in refugee camps in Liberia for the school year which ends in June 2012.
14. Increased material and technical support by the Ivorian National Government for local authorities responsible for the resolution of land conflicts.

Amnesty law

15. Increased support for the conflict resolution system to facilitate the return of goods and properties lost during the crisis.
16. The study by the Ivorian Government of an Amnesty Law as foreseen by the Tripartite Agreement.

The parties have decided that the next meeting of the Tripartite Commission will be held in the first week of August 2012 in Monrovia, Liberia.



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Done at Abidjan the 18th of May 2012

**For the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
The Minister of Ex Combatants
And Victims of War, representing
the Minister of State,
Minister of Foreign Affairs**



Mathieu Babaud DARRET

**For the Republic of Liberia
The Minister Internal Affairs**



Blamoh NELSON

**For the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
The Interim Representative of UNHCR in Côte d'Ivoire**



Serge RUSO