



MANO RIVER UNION UNION DU FLEUVE MANO

The Secretary General

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Dear Dr. Utsumi,

RE: Invitation

Mano River Union Secretariat's Invitation to Global University System (GUS)

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I greet you from Freetown, Sierra Leone where I serve as Secretary General of the Mano River Union Secretariat. This office, in cooperation with the United Nations and sub-regional governments, provides a mechanism for collaboration between Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and the Ivory Coast which is currently included due to destructive cross-border dynamics during and following rebel wars.

As you know, these countries are inter-twined in their histories and cultures and are now attempting to recover from a decade of rebel conflict, displacement of populations, breakdown of infrastructure and general disruption of civil society. Each sector must now participate for intra-regional, national and community-wide rehabilitation.

Compounding the challenges of rehabilitation is the growing dread of HIV/AIDS and how this disease may affect our populations, given the presence of so many contributing factors.

Mano River Union Secretariat's Interest in Global University System (GUS)

Ms. Linda Hawkin Israel, MAMaS Director, has briefed me, along with key stakeholders in this sub-region, as to the value of affiliation with you and with GUS. I congratulate you on your forward-leaning vision to bring together universities, donor groups and local stakeholders for the purpose of energizing the universities and educational infrastructure necessary for sustainable development in Africa. Your approach for consistency of planning and leveraging of resources is commendable and we look forward to further cooperation.

Invitation

Considering these possibilities, the Mano River Union Secretariat invites you to come for an assessment and planning mission where we will meet with educators, community-based leadership and at which time we can discuss all possibilities further. We will continue to cooperate with MAMaS as liaison between us for next phase analysis of needs.

Again, I congratulate you on your leadership for inclusion of advanced communications for education, health and development in Africa.

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Abdoulaye Diallo (Dr.)

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