

***Joint Declaration  
on the collaboration in the health sector***

The Minister of Health of the Italian Republic and the Minister of Health of the Republic of Liberia, hereinafter referred to as "Parties",

GUIDED by the willingness to further develop, within the areas of their own competence, a fruitful collaboration between their Countries in the health sector;

MOVED by the deep understanding that health belongs to the essential rights of the population, and can act as a catalyst to improve sustainable development and social cohesion;

CONSIDERING the epidemiological situation and the leading causes of morbidity and mortality;

CONSIDERING the need to further strengthen health staff training and refreshment;

WISHING to develop the national health systems to ensure equitable and universal access to quality healthcare, through the promotion of the most appropriate health strategies and technologies;

RECOGNIZING the strategic importance of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular MDG 4 – reduce child mortality; MDG 5 – improve maternal health and MDG 6 – combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the joint participation in International Organizations, among others the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

**Agree as follows:**

The Parties shall encourage collaboration in the field of health, on the basis of equality, gender equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

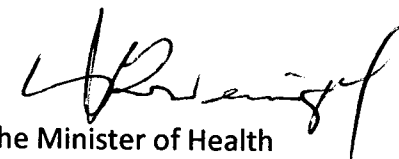
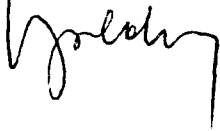
The specific areas of collaboration shall be mutually determined, taking into account the interests of the Parties. In the first phase, they will include, but not be limited to:

1. strengthening the network and cooperation between the two national health systems, in order to improve the delivery of universal, appropriate and high quality healthcare, including primary, secondary and tertiary level;

2. including partnership between Liberian and Italian clinical centres into the ESTHER programme, in order to develop joint projects for ensuring a holistic assistance to HIV/AIDS patients and develop innovative research activities;
3. fostering direct contacts between hospitals, health facilities and research institutes, aimed at promoting the exchange of health professionals and educational training.

Done in Geneva, on *MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>*, 2012, in two originals, in the English language.

The Minister of Health  
of the Italian Republic



The Minister of Health  
of the Republic of Liberia