

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("The Memorandum") is made on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2014 by and between:

(A) **THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CULTURE AND TOURISM** (hereinafter called "the MICAT"); and

(B) **THE PRESS UNION OF LIBERIA** (hereinafter called "the PUL").

Both MICAT and the PUL are hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party" or as "MICAT" and "PUL".

### WHEREAS:

- a. The Parties acknowledge the indispensable value for a free and responsible press as well as the need to balance the right to freedom of speech with the legitimate public interest of privacy and safety;
- b. The Parties note that a recent government decision to enforce the registration of all journalists and media institutions and the newly issued guidelines related to Ebola Treatment Units media coverage merit additional consideration to assure the proper balance of rights, freedoms and responsibilities;
- c. The basis, background, intent and possible consequences of the registration of journalists and media institutions and Ebola Treatment Units coverage guidelines were discussed openly and honestly during a series of meetings organized and facilitated by the Carter Center in October, 2014;
- d. The Parties take note that the matter of registration of all journalists and media institutions has been a subject of prior discussions between previous MICAT administrations and the PUL, and that the last discussions on the subject resulted into an MOU signed between the PUL and MICAT on January 15, 1998; a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference to constitute an integral part of this MOU; The Parties affirmed the general principle and spirit of the MOU of January 15, 1998;
- e. The Parties concur that there exists misunderstandings and disagreements in the issuance and implementation of media policies; and
- f. The Parties commit themselves to working together to educate, inform and serve the Liberian people, especially in the current fight against the Ebola Virus Disease and the continuing efforts to deepen Liberia's democracy.

