

7<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

The Minister and Chairperson -Inter-ministerial Taskforce on VGGT;  
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources;  
Republic of Sierra Leone  
Youyi Building - Freetown;

Dear Madam Minister;

**Request for round-table discussion with the IMTF for VGGT and  
Development Partners on the Black Johnson matter**

We write on behalf of a broad-based platform of civil society organizations working with government, community stakeholders, affected vulnerable groups and international development partners, to promote inclusive, people-centred land administration and overall good natural resource governance in the context of human rights in Sierra Leone.

Public discussion has brought our attention to concerns raised by residents, land owners and land users of the Black Johnson community in the Western Area regarding the proposed construction of a fish harbour and other industrial fishing activities by the Government of Sierra Leone, whose interest is represented by your Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Based on available public information and the State Opening of Parliament speech of President Bio, it is understood that the Chinese government has provided a grant and the Government of Sierra Leone seeks to acquire a parcel of 252 acres of land along the Black Johnson Beach for the project.

Given the implications for violation of rights and subsequent hostility between the State its citizens, as averted by the VGGT guidelines, we believe that constructive engagement with the members of the IMTF is vital in order for there to be a mutually beneficial, sustainable solution to these issues. Therefore, we are requesting a round-table discussion with the IMTF and other development partners on **Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021** at your Ministry's conference room.

You can reach anyone of us through either the telephone or email contacts stated in the letterhead. And by this copy, the other stakeholders are invited.

Kind regards in anticipation of your timely and positive response!


Signed



Land for Life



NaCCLE



NaRGEJ Green Scenery

Copy;

- i. IMTF Members;
- ii. VGGT Secretariat;
- iii. FAO Country Representative;
- iv. Country Manager, World Bank Country Office;
- v. Development Partners on Natural Resource Governance, VGGT and RAI (UNDP, WHH, NAMATI, Solidaridad, TI, etc)
- vi. File