

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



REMARKS BY

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AT THE

**"MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
COVENING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL"**

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UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

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Madam President,

Permit me on behalf of my delegation, to thank you for your leadership in steering our discussions. Let me also extend our thanks to the entire ECOSOC team for the efforts invested in organizing this FORUM.

The Forum presents an opportunity for us to review progress and to identify emerging issues that can potentially serve as inhibitors towards the attainment of our global agenda 2030- the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Madam President & distinguished delegates,

*This year, we are engaging under the theme "**Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies**". **Undoubtedly**, economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters are inimical to the attainment of our global agenda. The most vulnerable being developing countries. So this year's theme is particularly important because it draws our attention **first**, to the devastating effects of external and internal shocks, **second**, it elevates the need to formulate ways and means of reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience.*

In his report on "progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals", the Secretary General acknowledged efforts at all levels towards implementation. The report provides an opportunity for us to collectively appraise where we are and the challenges we have to grapple with.

Some of these challenges include but not limited to the following:

1). On Goal 6 for example, the report highlights that too many people still lack access to safely managed water and sanitation facilities.

2). On Goal 7, the report underscores the challenge faced at national levels in formulating national priorities and policy ambitions to deliver energy for all and to put the world on track to meet the energy targets for 2030.

3). On Goal 11, challenges such as ensuring adequate housing and resilient infrastructure, addressing environmental impacts, and vulnerability to disasters still persist.

In our national capacity, Madam President, and Consistent with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda, Liberia continues to make strides to ensure the implementation of the goals and targets. Particularly, in the context of implementing the goals under review and the SDGs in general, ***The President of Liberia, H.E. George Manneh Weah*** along with his team has adopted a transformation development plan titled "PRO POOR AGENDA FOR PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT (PAPD). The Pro Poor Agenda is based on four critical pillars that consider the SDGs in context for easy implementation in Liberia. The Pro-Poor Agenda is therefore about people and how to draw all Liberians, living at home and abroad, into the national development process. Over the next five years, addressing the basic needs of Liberians for income security, better access to basic services, and greater opportunities for self-improvement in an enabling environment that is inclusive and stable will be at the core of the pro-poor agenda. While one of the aims, over the long term, remains raising per capita income levels and economic status to a middle-income country as

outlined under the Vision 2030 framework, the focus over the next five years will be on removing binding constraints to reaching that goal. The four pillars on which the Pro – poor Agenda based are:

- 1. **Power to the People**— To reduce developmental inequalities so the people can prosper – addressing adequate infrastructures needs*
- 2. **The Economy and Jobs**— Economic stability and job creation through effective resource mobilization and prudent management of economic inclusion*
- 3. **Sustaining the Peace**—Promoting a cohesive society for sustainable development – where we all can live together as one family*
- 4. **Governance and Transparency**—An inclusive and accountable public sector for shared prosperity and sustainable development*

The overall goals can be summarized as follow:

- 1. To build a stable, resilient, and inclusive nation embracing our triple heritage and anchored on our identity as Africans*
- 2. To lift an additional one million Liberians out of absolute poverty over the next six years (and reduce absolute poverty by 23 percent across 5 of the 6 regions) through sustained and inclusive growth driven by scaled-up investments in agriculture, infrastructure, and human capital development*

Madam President,

The path towards implementation of the targets and goals of the agenda requires partnerships at all levels. To this end, strengthening global partnerships the promote and support the removal of critical implementation challenges remain crucial. We therefore emphasize the need for more results driven cooperation, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Liberia reaffirms its commitment in working assiduously towards the implementation of the Agenda. We will remain engaged and participate in these very interesting ensuing discussions. This delegation looks forward to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration with the optimism that it reflects the spirit of the theme and encapsulates the dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

I thank you for your kind attention