



UNMIL/PIO/PR/88

Press release, 19 July 2006

UN Envoy urges top UK Cabinet member and African Development Bank President to support Liberia's recovery and reconstruction

Monrovia, Liberia – The United Kingdom's Secretary of State for International Development, the Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, and the President of the African Development Bank (ADB), Dr. Donald Kaberuka, yesterday ended an unprecedented joint visit to Liberia aimed at gaining a first-hand understanding of the development challenges faced by the new Liberian administration.



Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn and Dr. Kaberuka meeting with senior UNMIL officials

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, briefed the high-level delegations from the UK Government and the ADB on the current security situation in Liberia and the priorities for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) during the current phase of peace consolidation. "The UN will stay the course but the government and her development partners must use this time to ensure short-term stabilization and push ahead with essential long-term reforms," SRSR Doss said. He stressed the importance of assisting the Government of Liberia to improve the road conditions throughout the country, create economic opportunities for the large number of unemployed youth, develop education and healthcare systems and extend state authority throughout the country. Mr. Doss thanked the UK government for the assistance provided to Liberia's Security Sector Reform process, including the timely and critical funding provided for the deactivation of the Liberia National Police.

During a meeting with senior UNMIL military and civilian officials, Dr. Kaberuka and Rt. Hon. Benn praised the United Nations for its continued commitment towards Liberia and the West African sub-region as a whole.

During the visit, the delegations met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and senior members of the Cabinet. They also met with a representative group of community members, visited a mother-and-child health clinic, a police station and a UK government funded water and sanitation project in Clara Town in the outskirts of Monrovia. They also met the US Ambassador accredited to Liberia as well as European Commission, World Bank and IMF representatives and members of the Liberian civil society.

The delegation from the United Kingdom included Mr. Dave Fish, the Africa Director of the Department for International Development, and the newly appointed British Ambassador to Liberia, Sarah McIntosh, while the ADB President was accompanied by Mr. Javier Litse, the ADB's Lead Economist and Mr. Foday Mansaray, the Executive Director of the ADB.
