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**UN Envoy meets with representatives of civil society organizations;
security remains UNMIL's core objective**

Monrovia, Liberia – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, together with other senior UNMIL officials, today met with representatives of Liberia's Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).



SRSR Doss meets with representatives of Civil Society Organizations

Addressing the CSO representatives at the UNMIL Headquarters in Monrovia, the Special Representative stressed the importance of their contributions to sustaining democracy in Liberia. “Civil society has played, and continues to play, a significant role in the peace process. You have worked closely with UNMIL and this role must now be consolidated through regular dialogue and information sharing,” Mr. Doss said.

Special Representative Doss briefed the CSO representatives on the current security situation in Liberia and the priorities for UNMIL during the current phase of peace consolidation. “Maintaining a secure and stable environment remains the core objective of UNMIL,” he said. He recognized people’s concern about crime and outlined some of the measures that UNMIL has been taking to combat the problem. Mr. Doss also stressed the importance of strengthening the judicial system, creating economic opportunities for the large number of unemployed youth, and the importance of pursuing sound economic management policies. He also highlighted the importance of rethinking the traditional mechanisms used for delivery of development assistance so that local communities will have more of a say in Liberia’s development process. In concluding the SRSG outlined the steps that UNMIL and the United Nations were taking to prevent and deal with sexual exploitation and abuse.

During the meeting, the CSOs also had an opportunity to voice their concerns, which included security and crime, the Guthrie plantation, employment, sexual exploitation and abuse and developments within the sub-region.

Over 20 representatives from the various CSOs attended today’s meeting, including the Federation of Liberia Youth, the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, the Liberia Council of Churches, Women in Peace Network, Association of Female Lawyers in Liberia and the Group of 77.

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