

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Participants,

It is a pleasure for my delegation to participate in this important 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development. It comes at a critical junction as the global community prepares to mark the 20th Anniversary of the 1994 Cairo Plan of Action.

Liberia pledges to contribute positively towards the achievement of a successful outcome of the deliberations of this session. My delegation joins the previous speakers in congratulating the chair for his election and commending the effective manner in which he is steering the work of the Commission.

Mr. Chair,

The historic international Conference on Population and Development which convened in Cairo, Egypt, twenty years ago was motivated by the burning desire to reduce, if not eliminate, high levels of poverty and inequalities of various types and forms, and to ensure enjoyment of rights and greater access to justice for all segments of society, in particular, the vulnerable and marginalized groups. The outcome marked a milestone in the global effort to concretize the inextricable links between population and development.

Liberia's commitment to the Cairo Programme of Action (PoA) remains unwavering. It has enabled countries to make tremendous progress in improving the quality of life of their populations. Although many objectives have been met, there are still disparities in access to health, social protection, basic human rights, social and economic opportunities, among others.

It is common knowledge that Liberia witnessed destruction on a massive scale resulting from a protracted conflict. Our national effort to carry forward the aspirations of the Cairo document began in earnest in 2006 with the first post conflict elected Government. Our people are anxious to enjoy the dividends of peace which include adequate health and education facilities, access to clean water and sanitation, full exercise by women of

their rights including sexual and reproductive health and rights, political participation and economic opportunities.

In the same vein, my delegation affirms its full acceptance of all of the tenets and commitments contained in the Addis Ababa Declaration on population and Development in Africa beyond 2014. This was the outcome of an African regional review undertaken in Addis from 3 to 4 October 2013 in which my Government participated. As such, Liberia shares the aspirations expressed therein.

We have also advanced and participated in meetings that established strong continental positions on the priorities of development in Africa. At this 47th session, we reaffirm our support for the CPD and will assist in the negotiations that will ensure convergence with other regional positions and outcome of a distilled resolution for ICPD beyond 2014.

In like manner, we call on all Member States to commit their support to the findings and recommendations of the review and reflect them in the global resolution of this 47th session of the CPD. This would ensure that further implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014 mitigates all forms of violence and discrimination against all people without distinction of any kind in the strive to promote human dignity.

We must do more investments to further promote and protect the rights of women and girls including sexual and reproductive health and rights and scale up socio-economic opportunities.

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Mr. Chair,

Lastly, it is the wish of my delegation to reiterate that it is critical that we continue in the spirit of the ICPD. Cairo established the vision that women would enjoy all rights. This vision that seem to ensure indivisibility of rights must not be rolled back. We must work in a holistic manner to achieve all the goals.

I thank you.