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**UN Envoy commends Liberia's religious leaders for their role in the run-up to elections;  
stresses importance of ethical and spiritual values**

*Monrovia, Liberia* – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, today commended Liberia's religious leaders for the major role they played during the country's elections last year and stressed the importance of inculcating ethical and spiritual values within Liberian society as the fragile nation recovers from long years of conflict.

Delivering the keynote address at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL), Special Representative Doss said: "The IRCL and the religious leaders played a very constructive and supportive role during the run-up to elections. I met with the Council on several occasions and their support contributed towards an election conducted without violence. For this, I wish to salute and publicly thank the Council and its members."

SRSG Doss said the Council's work during the long years of conflict and during the just-ended two-year transition period has gained the confidence of the Liberian people. "Therefore, you are well qualified to help guide and assist the rebirth of the Liberian nation. A nation that will be proud of itself, a nation at peace with itself and its neighbours, a nation that is tolerant of all faiths and a nation that enjoys a shared respect for diversity, human rights and human dignity," the SRSG said.

The two-day IRCL Annual General Assembly will focus on the theme 'Confronting Violence and Advancing Shared Security: The Role of Religious Leaders,' and will elect a new leadership to guide the work of the Council during the next year.

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