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**UN Envoy meets delegation from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;
Urges development assistance for Liberia**

Monrovia, Liberia - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, together with UNMIL senior officials, on Thursday, 20 April, met with Mr. Walter Fust, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and members of his delegation, to discuss the challenges faced by the Liberian administration and the role of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in the post-war phase of the country.

Highlighting the recent political developments, Special Representative Doss said UNMIL is committed to providing a secure and stable environment in the country that will allow the new administration to push forward its reform agenda. "Security and development are prerequisites for foreign investment. UNMIL stands ready to provide the required security to allow President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to implement her reform programme and to create a secure environment that will help attract foreign investment to Liberia," Mr. Doss said.

The Director General complemented the Special Representative and his team for a job well done in Liberia. He explained that the purpose of the delegation's visit was to identify areas that would need further assistance which Switzerland could provide as well as to look into possible bilateral partnerships.

Important issues that were discussed included county support initiatives, public-sector reform, infrastructure development, reforming the judicial system, enforcing the rule of law, and protecting people against human rights, including sexual violence against women and children. The SRSR emphasized the importance of providing assistance to help promote stability through employment opportunities for youth.

Mr. Doss stressed the need for the international community to assist the government in a coordinated and comprehensive manner to ensure that development assistance reaches all parts of the country. He highlighted the importance of rethinking the traditional mechanisms used for delivery of development assistance so that local communities and women will have more of a say in Liberia's development process.

During their visit to Liberia, the SDC delegation also met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the United Nations Country Team, a range of government officials and representatives from international organizations to discuss the country's priorities, and travelled to Lofa County to assess the situation on the ground. The SDC delegation included Mr. Hansjurg Ambuehl, Head of SDC Africa Division, Mr. Georg Zubler, Ambassador of the Embassy of Switzerland in Accra, Mr. Daniel Rychner, Regional Director of the SDC Office in Freetown, Mr. Juerg Landolt, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Monrovia, Mr. Jean-Philippe Jutzi, SDC Communications Officer, and Ms. Denise Luthi, Programme Officer of the SDC Office in Freetown.
