

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

COUNTRY STATEMENT

Madam Chairperson and Members of Delegations to this 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

Madam Chair, let me join other previous speakers to congratulate you and Members of the Bureau for your preferment to steer the affairs of this 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Madam Chair, please permit me to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation, on behalf of the President, H. E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the Government and People of Liberia, to the UNFPA and all other multilateral and bilateral partners for their assistance and direct interventions during the fight against the deadly Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia and our sister countries, Sierra Lone and Guinea in 2014.

Liberia participated in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt and since then, Liberia has always supported the ICPD Plan of Action. Liberia has in fact set up the Population Policy Commission (PPC) with a Secretariat that makes sure population issues are incorporated into national policy plans as well as monitor the implementation of such policy plans. The Population Policy Commission was chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs (MPEA), but currently it is chaired by the Liberia Institute and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) since the MPEA has been merged with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to form the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFPD).

Madam Chair, currently, the Government through the LISGIS is conducting a Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) for the first time since 1964. The survey is also the first post war HIES and the data will be collected for a period of twelve months in order to cover all seasons (such as raining and dry, crop harvesting, etc.). The purpose of the survey is to establish poverty line, improve the GDP estimates by inputting the household income and expenditure and the CPI and providing baseline data for the Government development programs and the SDGs. We are also planning to conduct the census in 2018 even though there will be a national presidential and legislative election in 2017, which will involve huge finances. However, the Government is aware of the fact that census is the major source of data for the SDGs, strengthening the capacity of the statistical and spatial system. Government and people are committed to conducting the census and we will need UNFPA support in mobilizing resources for the census.

Finally, let me thank the UNFPA and all development partners for their support to our development programs, which include, among others, family planning and reproductive health, poverty reduction, delivery of educational and health services, etc.

Thank you.