



**LIBERIA STATEMENT AT THE 57TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, NEW YORK APRIL 29 – MAY 3 2024**

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Your Excellency, Ms. Noemí Espinoza Madrid, Ambassador of the Republic of Honduras and Chair of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD),

Excellencies Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring you greetings from His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia.

The Liberian delegation is honored to participate in the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development under the theme: *"Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"*.

As we would recall, the Programme of Action adopted on September 13, 1994, by acclamation by all the conference delegations recognized the vital links between population and sustainable development, and the centrality of prioritizing sexual and reproductive health and the right of women and girls to make their own choices regarding their health and their lives.

Liberia remains committed to implementing this global agenda and to fulfilling the 88 commitments from the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, which

was endorsed by African Head of States in 2014 and constituted their renewed commitment to the ICPD Agenda.

Your excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Liberia's ten-year review of these commitments has revealed significant progress in areas such as improvement in school gender parity, childhood mortality, poverty reduction, maternal mortality, contraceptive prevalence rate, gender equality initiatives, addressing sexual and gender-based violence including child marriage, as well as creating general conducive legal and policy environment for sexual and reproductive health and rights and population program management.

Liberia also completed a milestone population and housing census which reported a population of 5.2 million with an annual growth rate of 3%. At this rate of growth, the population is expected to double in 23 years. The demographic profile shows a youth population with 60% under 25 years. The census provides good basis for Liberia's medium and long-term planning processes and for monitoring and evaluation of the ICPD Programme of action agenda and the SDGs.

We wish to thank UNFPA and other partners for the support they have provided Liberia over the last three decade since the Programme of Action was adopted in Cairo.

Your excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Inspite of the progress, several challenges persist, particularly, the high maternal mortality; prevalence of harmful practices including FGM and early marriage; the need to pass the revised Public Health Law to increase access to SRHR for all groups; the negative effect of climate change and COVID-19 ; the need for investment to harness the youth bulge and realizing demographic dividend; and the need to improve the Civil Registration System. Therefore, the Programme of Action is as relevant now as it was in 1994.

In conclusion, I reaffirm the Liberia government commitment to the ICPD and the 2030 agenda and highly appreciate the strong partnerships and collaborations from the regional and international development partners that have enabled Liberia's progress. The enduring relevance of ICPD demands actions and investments that will accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Pact for the Future, and a post-2030 agenda that continues to center on the ICPD Programme of Action.

Liberia is a young country, where nearly 75% of our people are below 35 years. I call upon more support and commitment from regional, bilateral, and international partners in the efforts to accelerate actions to tackle the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action, which will enable Liberia to realize a demographic dividend .

I thank you.