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26 December 2012

Excellency,

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, I have the honour to refer to the final report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia dated 4 December 2012 (S/2012/901), which is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1521/liberiaPOE.shtml>.

In connection with the Panel's report, the members of the Committee have asked that I draw your attention, in particular, to the following recommendations contained therein:

Paragraph 176 (page 49): All companies that receive natural resource concessions must fully and transparently make public their ownership structures, including all amendments to their articles of incorporation, and comprehensively list the members of, inter alia, their boards of trustees and boards of directors. These companies should not be allowed to list anonymous bearer shares. All contracts and documentation related to ownership and leadership should be made available through the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and be published on its website.

Paragraph 178 (page 49): The Panel emphasizes Liberia's pervasive land tenure challenges. It notes that land tenure is a root cause for conflict in Liberia and that unclear and conflicting land tenure rights inhibit natural resource governance and have a negative impact on growth, peace and stability. The Panel recommends that the Government of Liberia, supported by international partners, urgently and comprehensively address the country's underlying land tenure issues, including through efforts to clarify ownership, develop a centralized cadastre and establish functional mechanisms to resolve land disputes and transparently hear complaints related to natural resource extraction, in particular complaints from local communities. In this regard, it is critical to support the role of the Land Commission.

Paragraph 179 (page 50): The Panel urges the Government of Liberia to ratify the Voluntary Partnership Agreement. The donor community must support Liberia's ratification and adherence to the Voluntary Partnership Agreement process.

Paragraph 182 (page 50): The Panel commends the recent progress made in finalizing the fourth reconciliation report of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (covering the period from July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and expected to be published early in 2013), but continues to emphasize the need for more timely oversight reports. In this regard, the Panel urges the Government of Liberia and the donor community to provide the Initiative with the support necessary for the successful and robust fulfilment of its mandate.

Mr. Staffan Tillander
 Chair of the Liberia Configuration
 of the UN Peacebuilding Commission
 New York

The Committee would welcome receiving, at your earliest convenience, the views of the Liberia Configuration of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission with regard to the above-mentioned recommendations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Masood Khan
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003)
concerning Liberia

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