

**Summary of the visit of H.E. Mr. Staffan Tillander, Chair of the Liberia Configuration,
Peacebuilding Commission, to Liberia
2-7 February 2014**

Purpose of the visit

1. The Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Staffan Tillander, visited Liberia from 2 to 7 February 2014. He was accompanied by Mr. Kenneth Gluck, Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Ms. Kaori Minami, Peacebuilding Officer, PBSO. H.E. Ms. Marjon V. Kamara, Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations, joined the Chair in meetings with senior Liberian government officials.
2. The purpose of the visit was 1) to hold discussions with stakeholders concerning peacebuilding efforts in Liberia, including on the Statement of Mutual Commitments (SMC); 2) to discuss the status of implementation of the Roadmap for National Healing and Reconciliation; 3) to explore means of accelerating progress on justice and security; and 4) to contribute to strategies for coordinated support. The Chair also held discussions on land-related issues, natural resources and community involvement as part of his follow up to the letter from the Sanctions Committee on Liberia of 12 December 2013 and he continued discussions with international financial institutions in support of peacebuilding efforts in Liberia.
3. The Chair met with the President of Liberia, Minister of Internal Affairs, Peace Ambassador George Weah, Deputy Minister of Lands and Mines and Energy, Chair of the Independent National Human Rights Commission, Ambassador of ECOWAS to Liberia, the donor community, the World Bank Office in Monrovia, senior officials of UNMIL and UN Country Team members. He also visited Kakata City of Margibi County, the regional justice and security hub in Gbarnga of Bong County and Sinje of Grand Cape Mount County to engage in land issues and natural resource management issues.
4. Liberia still faces many peacebuilding challenges as it strides into a new year; a year that should witness senatorial elections in October and a continued gradual drawdown of UNMIL's military presence. There has been progress in many aspects under the three pillars of the Statement of Mutual Commitments, yet there remains a number of critical areas in which further progress is required, in particular, efforts in the justice and security sector and the national reconciliation process.

Meeting with the President of Liberia

5. The Chair raised four main points with the President: 1) progress and resources in the justice and security sector including the police, corrections, the Bureau of Immigration (BIN) and Naturalization and the regional justice and security hubs; 2) the importance of progress on national reconciliation; 3) land and natural resource management, including the discussions held with community leaders and Sime Darby Plantation during his visit; and 4) the role of civil society where concerns had been conveyed in the course of the visit.

6. The President emphasized that the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding, and Reconciliation should be followed; that Palava Huts were an important part of this; and assured that the reconciliation process would not be held back by lack of funds. All involved needed to get together, coordinate action and draw up an action plan.
7. On the slow progress on justice, including the police, the Ministry of Justice would meet with the Ministry of Finance the following week to discuss budget allocations, implementation and acceleration of progress in the justice sector, in particular on police where government budget allocations would be forthcoming soon. On police reform, the President emphasized her support for promoting accountability, leadership and engagement with civilians and noted that this would be further advanced with the adoption of the Police Act which had already been submitted to the Legislature.
8. With regard to the Panel of Experts on Liberia of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003), the President referred to the work on a new land law and agency and confirmed the need for sustainable and transparent management of natural resources. She also conveyed that based on the New Deal principles of national ownership, she was pleased that natural resources had been removed from the Sanctions Committee's mandate, and that all of the sanctions on Liberia should be removed.
9. The Chair noted that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) had allocated \$1 million for work on natural resources, which would complement the actions by the World Bank and UNDP on natural resources. The President welcomed this, as she said it would help the Government develop stronger policies for the management of natural resources and help explain Liberia's position to the international community and NGOs.
10. The Chair's visit took place a week after the President had presented her annual message to the National Legislature on 27 January, in which the role and activities of NGOs had been discussed. The President now restated the position that NGOs need mechanisms of public accountability and should act responsibly in their agitation. Liberia needs partners, not policemen, and the message was not meant to undermine the role of NGOs.

Statement of Mutual Commitments

11. The Chair
took part in two meetings on the SMC review. The first discussed the status of the draft annual report for the period of October 2012 to December 2013 which was led by the Chair and attended by representatives of the Peacebuilding Office in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the Programme Management Unit of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the UN Country Team and PBSO. The second was a senior-level meeting chaired by the Ministers of Finance, Minister Internal Affairs and the Deputy SRSG of Consolidation of Democratic Governance (CDG), and focused on the way forward of the SMC. Other participants included the Ambassadors of the US, Sweden and the EU, representatives from the MoJ, UNMIL and the UN Country Team.
12. At the
senior-level meeting, the Chair re-stated his commitment to ensure that the SMC was aligned

with existing government frameworks so as to avoid parallel processes. The Chair suggested that the SMC should be extended by one year, which would allow for a continued effort to achieve commitments. He requested clarity on the Government of Liberia plans with regard to the New Deal and how it would affect the Statement of Mutual Commitments.

Government of Liberia stressed that they had not yet concluded consultations on the New Deal, and that the SMC should be aligned with the Agenda for Transformation.

13. With
regard to the Government's commitments under the SMC, the Chair asked for more clarity on budget allocation to the justice sector during 2012 to 2014. UNMIL pointed to the need for concerted efforts to reduce pre-trial detention rates that remained high (75%), and also urged that the Police Act be expedited. A partner country noted the need to address the issue of unused police training centres. The Minister of Finance initiated a special meeting the following week, with concerned ministries and agencies, to find a quick solution to the problems that had caused delays in police, immigration and corrections officer training.
14. On national
reconciliation, the Government would be developing a work plan for the implementation of the Roadmap. Key activities and targets for 2014 would be prepared following technical meetings which were planned for the following week. The Government had also moved forward with the communication strategy for reconciliation, the Palava Hut talks, south-south cooperation and the national symbols project. The Chair welcomed the preparation of an implementation plan that covered the different areas. He also stressed the importance of the inclusion of women in the reconciliation process.

Justice and Security

15. The Justice and Security Joint Programme needed to move at a faster pace. UNMIL had started coordination meetings with partners in the sector to clarify roles and identify gaps. Challenges remained, however, such as the lack of resources and limited implementation capacity. In discussions with UNMIL, the Chair highlighted the need for a comprehensive justice and security programme which would define the different areas of needed support in the sector and provide a clearer framework for support from partners. The DSRS (CDG) informed about the plans for a "second generation justice and security joint programme". A consultant would be hired in the coming month to work with local partners to revise the existing joint programme and look at different options for the management of the trust fund. The focus of work would be on fund management, resource mobilization strategy, clarity on the roles of partners, structural issues and project transfers. He stressed that partners were still able to contribute to this sector through bilateral funding mechanisms even if they do not participate in the Trust Fund. Concurrently, UNDP would conduct an audit of the Trust Fund.
16. The
Deputy Head of PBSO pointed out in discussions with UNMIL and government authorities that the PBF was a catalytic fund, and that it was willing to initiate projects where this would facilitate complementary investments by the Government of Liberia or other international partners.

17. The
Government of Liberia and UNMIL organized a two-day lessons learned workshop on the regional justice and security hub in Gbarnga on 4 and 5 February. The sessions sought to identify the lessons learned in the implementation of Gbarnga Hub project and ensure that this experience informed the planning for the Harper and Zwedru Hub projects. The Chair, Deputy Head of PBSO, the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations, representatives of the Government of Liberia (the Deputy Ministers of Finance and of Justice, a Justice of the Supreme Court), UNMIL and the UN Country Team took part in the high-level meeting on the second day.

18. Key points
on the achievements and challenges for the Gbarnga Hub include the following:

Achievements

- Improvement and strengthening of justice and security services to the region
- Improved awareness of local users which contributes to an improved perception of justice, security and judicial institutions
- Complaints against justice and security actors processed throughout the region
- 16 of the processed complaints successfully closed in favor of complainants
- Effective follow-up mechanisms for complaints
- Higher level of understanding and collaboration with security and justice actors
- Clients whose complaints are ruled against accept the ruling in many instances.
- Decentralization of Peace Support Operations in the region
- Surveillance patrols conducted in nearly all border points in the region
- Good working relationships with the Judiciary
- Recognition given to human rights officers in counties as service providers
- Public defenders in the hub strived to represent defendants and to protect their rights from prolonged pretrial detention; a major concern in the criminal justice system.
- A large number of defendants were represented at all level of the judicial systems.
- The case load has decreased with the deployment of six public defenders.
- 20 corrections officers were trained as part of this project and improved staffing levels at Voinjama and Gbarnga Prisons which has improved security at the facilities.
- Renovation of cells improved the separation of juveniles and females; more focus should be on better staffing the existing prisons rather than construction of more prisons that will not be adequately staffed.
- Response to security incidents in prisons has improved following the establishment of the PSU at the Hub.
- The clinic at the facility has improved prisoners' access to healthcare.
- Prison rehabilitation activities are being undertaken at the training workshop constructed as part of the project.
- Improved operations following the construction of the administrative block with supply of a digital safe and photocopier machine at Gbarnga Prisons as well as office furniture for all the three facilities in the Hub (Gbarnga, Voinjama and Sanniquellie).

Challenges

- Coordination and Communication
- Infrastructure delivery and sequencing
- Better consultation and coordination with national partners and stakeholders for approval before implementation.
- Lack of a comprehensive work schedule and slow implementation processes
- Slow procurement processes
- Better planned architectural design
- Mob violence in communities (aggravated assaults, deaths and destruction of properties)
- Low enthusiasm in and among the LNP and BIN
- Reduced community confidence in LNP
- Abandonment of posts by security per
- No consideration of the cost of maintenance and fuel for the Gbarnga prison in the hub budget as it is off-site
- Abandonment of posts by security personnel and other services providers
- Lack of fuel (petroleum) to access the all Magisterial courts within each county
- Lack of office staff, mobility and office equipment
- Two public defenders per county are not enough due to the case load arising from rendering services both at the circuit and magisterial court levels in the county.
- Lack of funds is a major impediment in terms of evidence gathering and transportation of witnesses to court.
- Absence of correctional facility for Lofa County
- Inadequate information-sharing among criminal justice actors
- Need for a master plan taking into account facilities, sustainable infrastructure, waste disposal, landscapes, water and electricity supply, roads
- Need for an assessment of priorities of national institutions
- Respect for indigenous qualities
- More frequent activity reports to the Justice and Security Board

19. Plans were
in place for the quick roll-out of service in the hubs in Harper and Zwedru including legal counsels, public defenders, public outreach coordinators, SGBV crimes unit, human rights monitors, CSO justice and advisory services. The Government of Liberia confirmed that funds for the first stage of the implementation of hubs 2 and 3 had been approved. UNDP noted that further steps to ensure access to the hubs was important, in particular, for women. The Chair underlined that the implementation of hubs 2 and 3 should not take as long as the Gbarnga hub. The process could be sequenced differently, and the roles of the actors involved should be better clarified. He suggested that already now, the preparatory planning for hubs 4 and 5 should start.

20. On hubs 4
and 5, the Government of Liberia was not certain if funds were available at the current stage. A resource mobilization strategy was needed. The Chair underlined that setting priorities for hubs 4 and 5 was important, and that provision of services should be given priority.

Furthermore, the Government should take the lead in defining resource mobilization priorities, which the PBC could support.

21. At the concluding session, the Government of Liberia emphasized the importance of people's access to justice. This was also part of mutual obligations contained in the SMC. The Chair underlined the importance of the Government's commitment to and ownership of the justice and security sector. The Deputy Head of PBSO also pointed out that the hubs were important means to fostering relations of trust and confidence between the state and its citizens. UNMIL pointed to the hubs' role in the decentralization process and the positive experiences they brought to Liberia.

Meetings with Partners

22. The Chair met with bilateral and regional partners including the Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS, Head of Mission of the European Union Delegation and the EU Member States, the Norwegian delegation visiting Liberia to assess the situation in the justice and security sector in Liberia, the Ambassador of Sweden, and the Ambassador of the United States. In some cases partners were in the process of exploring further engagements and support to Liberia. Notably, the EU will in its coming European Development Fund programming allocate a considerable share for support to the justice sector. Norway was exploring providing additional expertise in this key area. Sweden would continue supporting corrections training programmes, including a development of a senior management training course and follow-up sessions on the previously conducted enhanced security and non-lethal use of force training (which enabled all corrections officers of the Bureau of Correction and Rehabilitation to undergo training in non-lethal use of force).
23. Main points discussed with bilateral partners included the following:
- Contributions to Liberia's long-term police, BIN, corrections and judicial system training;
 - Lack of coordination among national agencies with regard to security sector agencies training;
 - Need for clarity on budgetary expenditures from the Liberian Government;
 - Maintaining a coordinated approach amongst the core donor group;
 - Implications of the UNMIL drawdown for support to the security and justice sector;
 - Land reform issues;
 - Elections in 2014 and 2017;
 - The Ministry of Justice and its lead on judicial issues;
 - The constitutional review process;
 - Corruption issues;
 - Accelerating the national reconciliation process;
 - The state of New Deal implementation and how it relates to the SMC.

24. The newly appointed Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS pointed to several key challenges ECOWAS addressed in Liberia including 1) the need to strengthen regional integration, 2) long-term development issues 3) recognition of ECOWAS contributions at the community level; 5) mapping areas of assistance; 6) increasing cooperation with the Mano

River Union (MRU). He underlined that the regional justice and security hubs were important contributions to UNMIL's drawdown, and it would be useful to see how the concept could be applied in other post-conflict countries. He also referred to the US\$2 million pledged by Nigeria at the recent Africa Solidarity Conference in Addis Ababa to support reconstruction and development for African countries emerging from conflict. On early warning, challenges remained including accuracy in reporting, lack of coordination and expanding the system to include economic crises.

National Reconciliation

25. The Minister of Internal Affairs focused on a number of issues in his discussion with the Chair including women, youth, national reconciliation, transborder issues, and the communications strategy for the Reconciliation Roadmap. He highlighted that women played important roles in governance, development, health and children. Women should be empowered to be able to compete with men, and there was a need to develop their skills for sustainable development of the country. Adequate representation of women in the Legislature had to be ensured. The Minister praised the work of UN Women in Liberia, and expressed his condolences for the recent loss of the Representative of UN Women Liberia.
26. On youth issues, unemployment was a key concern. The Minister expressed appreciation for the support from the PBF for the youth, and advised that programmes should be practical and far-reaching beyond 2017. The MIA would also reach out to the youth so that their needs were better recognized. He also expressed his appreciation to the PBF for their support to the constitutional review process which would allow greater public consultations and dialogue on constitutional issues.
27. The Chair emphasized that women played important roles in reconciliation efforts, in particular the Palava Hut process, and also shared with the Minister the concerns raised by the communities at the Bo-Waterside in Grand Cape Mount County where he had visited the previous day. The MIA informed the Chair that a concept paper on the Liberia Peacebuilding Reconciliation Trust Fund was being prepared, to which Liberian authorities and concessions would contribute. Also noted were the launch of the National Symbols Project the previous day, which sought to develop more inclusive national symbols and images. On south-south cooperation, Liberia looked towards countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and South Africa to forge partnership.
28. The Chair reiterated to the MIA that the reconciliation process moved too slowly. Stronger political will of the Government and other stakeholders was needed in order to meet people's expectations and fulfil the ambitions of the Government of Liberia's Reconciliation Roadmap. The Chair also shared his concern about the amount of Government budget allocation (\$500,000) for national reconciliation. The Minister of Internal Affairs noted that Ambassador George Weah planned to visit Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties, which the Ministry supported. The Minister did, however, express reservations about the size of budget for this tour. The Chair pointed to the importance of an inclusive process as well as sustained coordination among different actors in order to ensure the Roadmap's successful implementation.

29. On cross-border issues, the Minister had met with the Ambassadors of Sierra Leone, Côte'Ivoire and Gambia to discuss the MRU Reconciliation Peacebuilding Fund. He also expressed concerns about the 2015 elections in Côte D'Ivoire, noting that instability there could negatively impact on Liberia's stability. Therefore, it was important to consider how to anticipate and mitigate such effects. Also noted was the next Council Chiefs Meeting of Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire expected to take place in March or April.
30. The Communications Strategy for the Reconciliation Roadmap was unable to meet targets due to lack of funding. The strategy was being prepared by the MIA in coordination with a number of partners with an aim to consolidate the various initiatives. Some allocation of the PBF was expected for this strategy. The Minister underlined that there was a need for thorough deliberation, and the strategy would be implemented by various means of traditional and non-traditional communications.
31. On civil society organizations (CSOs), the Minister praised their work, but observed that they were "stuck in one gear", adding that they had not adjusted their activities to suit the post-conflict period. He also criticized their increased visibility which was often not supported by actual activities. The Chair argued that CSOs were important for democracy, and in particular, in the efforts to ensure an inclusive political process. The Minister agreed, but underlined that CSOs should also be held accountable for their actions in the same way as the Government. He underlined that there was no desire to constrain CSOs.
32. The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), led by the newly appointed Chair, required capacity building and strengthened collaboration with national and international partners. In the meeting with the Chair, the INCHR Chair highlighted some areas of priority which included education, rights of women and children, and strengthening the government's efforts to build peace. The Chair underlined the importance of the regional justice and security hubs for people's access to justice and noted that much of the INCHR's work was reflected in the SMC. On the Palava Hut process, the INCHR noted some progress had been made including the technical forum in November 2013 where different types of mechanisms were discussed. The CSOs were leading the development of a Terms of Reference for an ethno-graphic study which would be completed in the following two weeks and which would be used to develop an implementation plan.
33. The INCHR Chair underlined that lack of resources including staff and financial support were key challenges for the INCHR. It currently consisted of only six commissioners and one chair. The INCHR had received only US\$766,000 out of the US\$5 million that had been requested, which was not enough for hiring the type of staff they required. The selection of investigators and monitors had been based on family relations rather than on professional experience. Education and training on human rights also required funds.
34. On a separate occasion, the DSRSG (CDG) of UNMIL expressed concern about the institutional weakness in the INCHR. He also advised that more attention could be paid to the national history project as the lack of resources was a challenge to the work of the panel of scholars.

Border Security and Land issues

35. The Chair visited the Land Coordination Centre in Kakata City (Margibi County) which had received 41 land dispute cases last year. Five of them had been resolved. The Centre expressed appreciation for the support from the PBF. The Centre uses alternative land dispute mechanisms which seek to find mutually acceptable resolutions without referring cases to the court system which is already overloaded. Training programmes were conducted for different groups including elders and chiefs and focused on both traditional and formal legal training. Educational outreach, information dissemination and surveys were also conducted by the Centre. Current challenges for the Centre included the division of deeds, establishing ownership of land among community group leaders, and vacated land issues including war-affected land.
36. At Sinje in Grand Cape Mount County, the Chair visited a border crossing point with Sierra Leone, followed by a visit to the Sime Darby Oil Palm and Rubber Plantation. The Chair observed the Joint Border Security premises, where offices of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Liberia National Police (LNP), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Office of National Security (ONS) were located as well as Customs and Health Control posts. The Chair also visited the Mano River Bridge crossing point, which connects the two countries, with border control on both sides.
37. The joint security personnel and civil society groups in the area shared their challenges which included lack of mobility, which was essential for effective patrolling of the border and follow-up on crimes, as well as the lack of communications equipment. Drug trafficking was a major challenge which could not be addressed adequately due to the lack of effective legislation and the fact that there were only eight DEA agents deployed in the county. BIN called for the arming of its officers to increase their ability to combat cross-border crime. While they confirmed good working relations with Sierra Leonean counterparts, including regular joint border security meetings, they noted a lack of effective operational coordination in efforts to control drug trafficking.
38. Civil society groups, including the Women in Cross-border Trade, cited ongoing harassment by border officials towards women, including sexual harassment, as a key threat. The Community Watch Forum representative agreed with the threats cited by security agencies, including human trafficking to illicit mines, but also expressed communities' lack of trust in those agencies and warned against arming border officials which they felt would lead to greater abuses against the local population. He advocated channelling more support to community policing. The Chair assured them that he would channel their concerns to relevant parties.
39. Community representatives living in the vicinity of the Sime Darby Plantation raised concerns about the shortage of medical and educational services in the area. They argued that the clinic provided by Sime Darby was of poor quality and frequently short of medicines. The secondary school provided by Sime Darby was only available for children of Plantation workers. The lack of training for the youth and lack of access to farmland in the area of their villages were also brought to the Chair's attention. Community members sought better clarification on the benefits that Sime Darby brought for the community.

40. The Chair also met with the management team of Sime Darby Oil Palm and Rubber in Grand Cape Mount County and shared the letter of the Malaysian Government to the Sanctions Committee dated 17 December 2013 regarding the concessions. Sime Darby emphasized the many benefits for Liberia including employment and labour opportunities, reduced migration of the labour force from rural communities. They noted that the Plantation was paying higher market rates for Plantation workers and employed a total of 2,968 workers (almost twice the number that had been originally required). Health care and schools were also provided by the management. Sime Darby did recognize some of the difficulties with communities could have been avoided, and noted that several challenges needed to be addressed including managing expectations of communities; balancing environmental concerns with development; legal rights and ownership; and managing costs and requirements.
41. Some progress on land issues was also observed. The Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy focused on 1) coordination work with agencies on environmental issues including the EPA; 2) land exploitation; and 3) land policy issues. The Chair shared with the Deputy Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy the letter from the Sanctions Committee of 12 December 2013 which referred to issues relevant to the Ministry's work. He asked that the Ministry review the letter and share any comments or suggestions it may have. The Ministry was also preparing a concept note on guidelines for informal sectors such as artisanal mining and small and medium enterprises. Furthermore, a national consultative meeting took place in January 2014 which had discussed the importance of revenues generation from concessions but had also supported the need for civil society participation, reliable statistics and regulations on security matters. Regular meetings between the Ministry and stakeholders on the Kimberley Process recommendations had been discontinued and it was the Ministry's priority in 2014 to restart dialogue by end February. Regular consultations were expected to be completed by March, after which a roadmap would be ready for small-scale mining policies, decentralization, and the establishment of committees on regional issues and transparency. The Ministry informed the Chair of its plan to hold a "Local Government Months" which would involve a series of consultations during the month with all levels of society, which was followed by an update to the Legislature, local chiefs and other groups in the area of new concessions.
42. UNMIL
noted that a review by the Government of Liberia had concluded that 63 concessions in mining and agriculture had been granted unlawfully, adding that 29 of these concessions had recently been revoked. Demonstrations and protests had taken place on two concessions in both Grand Bassa and Bong counties. In several cases, local political leaders appeared to give false expectations to the local people. There would be a joint study by the Land Commission, the MIA and UNDP looking at community consultation and participation in land concessions. The Chair also noted in his meetings that UNDP and the World Bank were conducting a study on natural resource management.
43. The Land Commission and the MIA were conducting a study on drivers of land conflicts in communities which was expected to be completed in March. The MIA underlined that concessions should take into account the needs of the local communities. The Chair also shared the letter from the Security Council Sanctions Committee (12 December 2013) with the Minister of Internal Affairs and advised to review the recommendations. The Chair also met with representatives of Global Witness visiting Liberia.

Observations

The Chair expressed his sincere gratitude to UNMIL for the excellent arrangements and strong support extended to him before and during the visit. The Chair and the Deputy Head of PBSO made the following observations:

- The national reconciliation process needs to be expedited and implemented in a coordinated and practical manner. The INCHR needs to be strengthened and to collaborate with other principals in the process to ensure capacity for implementation and that synergies are utilized in the reconciliation process.
- Land issues and management of natural resources remain a key issue in need of support and attention from partners. The efforts of the World Bank and the UNDP should be pursued and supported as they form a basis for a possible intensification of coordinated support from partners for key institutions and reform efforts.
- The Government of Liberia needs to continue allocating funds for running costs of the Gbarnga Hub, and by addressing logistical issues and to utilize the services of the Hub for effective outreach and greater attentiveness to community needs and concerns.
- The next regional justice and security hubs should continue to pursue the focus on delivery of services and ease of access for the population. Learning from previous experiences, the implementation of hubs 2 and 3 needs to be accelerated.
- Efforts to develop a “second generation justice and security programme” should be encouraged.
- The Government of Liberia needs to ensure the allocation of and release of sufficient budget resources for justice, security and reconciliation, in line with the SMC.
- There should be greater efforts to utilize the expansion of Government services in Security, Justice and in Reconciliation to build relations of trust and confidence between the State and the population, particularly in rural areas.
- The Chair recommends that the SMC be extended for another year. While some progress has been made on a number of issues, much remains to be accomplished. SMC should remain a flexible instrument, and if a New Deal Compact or other development frameworks are concluded between Liberia, the UN and partners during this period that cover the same commitments as the SMC, the PBC should facilitate alignment, avoid parallel mechanisms and reduce the burden of reporting.
- The Chair will continue his follow up with the Government of Liberia and partners on the status of new mechanisms including the New Deal.
