



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE 69TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AT THE

SUMMIT ON CLIMIT CHANGE

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Madam/Mr. Chairperson

Excellencies

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who is unable to attend this important Summit on climate at this time due to the severity of the Ebola crisis in our country and the region, I am pleased to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Ban Ki Moon for organizing this event on Climate Change, particularly, at the summit level.

While we try to address the urgent critical health crisis in Liberia during this period, we yet have our eyes fixed on uniting with like-minded nations to secure a safe and prosperous future for our country and the global community. It is in this context that we associate ourselves with the statements delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the G-77 and China, and that of Sudan on behalf of Africa, and Nepal on behalf of The Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Madam Chair,

Climate change has been identified as a major threat to human existence, development and to sustainable ecology. Climate change continues to hurt the socio-economic prospects of our societies, the least developed, landlocked and small island states, thereby hindering attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, with long-reaching effects on food security.

My country, Liberia, is also encountering the debilitating effects of climate change.

In Liberia, climate change has resulted in low agricultural and fisheries productivities, and unprecedented coastal erosion. The negative impacts of climate change on critical sectors like agriculture, health and energy continue to impede our Agenda for Transformation. Cognizant of the potential consequences of climate change, our Agenda for Transformation and our long term development framework, Vision 2030, have foreseen the development of a national climate change policy, strategies and plans. This is intended to climate proof our development. In response also, we are presently implementing three major adaptation projects of the National Adaptation Program of Actions and will continue to expand concrete actions, including:

- *Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Areas to Climate Change Risk in Liberia*
- *Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change by Mainstreaming Adaptation Concerns into Agricultural Sector Development in Liberia*
- *Strengthening Liberia's Capability to Provide Climate Information and Services to enhance resilient development and adaptation to Climate Change*

Moreover, Liberia has completed a Gender and Climate Change Strategy. The Strategy is intended to build the resilience of Liberian Women to the impacts of climate change. Presently, we are participating in the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility intended to assist in the development of our national Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Strategy. We intend to use this strategy, when completed to conserve our forest resources in carbon sequestration as part of our commitment to reducing the greenhouse gas emission. In furtherance of our commitment, we are today entering into two major partnership agreements with Norway:

- 1) Agreement which promotes reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation whilst developing Liberia's agriculture sector in a low carbon environment. These initiatives are undertaken in recognition of the adverse impacts of deforestation and forest degradation on our environment and the climate.
- 2) Agreement to promote the use of sustainable energy technologies and solutions with a view to limiting the negative climate and environment related impacts of energy generation and use.
- 3) We have also signed with the Government of Norway a Letter of Intent geared toward a deforestation free forest sector.

Madam Chair

Developing countries, like Liberia, contribute less to carbon emissions but suffer disproportionately from the adverse impact of climate change. As we, small, developing countries make commitments to save our planet, the hard truth is that if all countries, small or big, developing or developed, do not make similar and proportionate contributions to this noble

effort, what we do here today will not avail much in achieving the lofty goals we have set for this Summit. Therefore, we hope that this Summit will spur the global community into concrete actions in the interest of our generation and the generations of the future.

I thank you