

**Statement by**  
**H.E. Amb. Lewis Garseedah Brown, II**  
**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations**  
**2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up Process**  
**New York**  
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Madam President/Chair,

The Liberian Delegation thanks you for the leadership in driving this important process with obvious significant implications for the implementation of the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We are pleased to participate in this follow-up process.

Madam President/Chair,

We note the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF), which references the appreciable developments in global economic activities, as well as efforts made in mobilizing financial and technical resources for development, including advances in science, technology and innovation which enhance the potential to achieve our development goals.

We also note the report of the SG on the Follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the SG noted that “in 2017 (during the last year), most types of development financing flows increased and there was

progress across all the action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda” further observing this “positive momentum is expected to continue and provide a platform for further progress in financing for development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”.

However, notwithstanding these appreciable developments, the report also highlighted a number of challenges that serve as impediments to robust growth and achieving sustainable development including high levels of inequality, decline in private investment in infrastructure, and other structural factors which continue to undermine prospects for sustainable development.

Madam President, addressing this situation calls for collective interventions at the global, regional and national levels. During the last Follow-up Forum, new commitments on policies and actions to ensure the full and timely delivery of the means of implementation of the sustainable development goals were generated. This Follow-up Session must build on the commitments of the last and provide a trajectory for progress. Hence, we wish to highlight the following:

**1). Attracting responsible investment(s)**

Attracting responsible investments is key to the realization of the goals of the Agenda. This is why Mr. Chair, we must endeavor to double up engagements with the private sector, with the ultimate goal of facilitating concrete investment especially in developing countries (LDCs). To this end, we particularly note with commendation, the organization of the “SDG Investment Fair” (SDGI Fair) which was aimed at matching funding opportunities with SDG-focused projects, and

discussing country-level challenges in scaling-up SDGI(sustainable Development Investment).

## **2). Enhancing domestic resource mobilization & International Assistance**

Madam President, undoubtedly, domestic resource mobilization is an essential component of the resource basket for financing our development Agenda. Intentional efforts should be made at the national level, to generate domestic resources. Additionally, while emphasizing the use of domestic resources, we cannot deny that the productive capacities of the economies of many of our countries whose peoples are already too far behind which are further compounded by the size of the challenges to be overcome compels international understanding, assistance and support. And so, for many of our countries, domestic efforts supplemented by international assistance is critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the SDGs.

Even where the political will is manifest, funding and capacity gaps are greatest in LDCs. This is where too many are already too far behind. The IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development) in its 2018 report underscored the need for more international support to buttress the efforts of LDCs in meeting the SDGs. It behooves us then to renew calls for strong international support, coherent funding modalities and mobilization of additional resources, to meaningfully ensure that no one is left behind.

## **3). Bridging the infrastructure gap**

The need for addressing the infrastructure gap(s) cannot be overemphasized. The Agenda calls for increased investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure

as prerequisite for achieving the sustainable development goals. This is in recognition of the fact that basic infrastructure like roads, information and communication technologies, sanitation, electricity and water remain scarce in many developing countries. Hence, we welcome the launching of various initiatives intended to close the global infrastructure gap including the Global Infrastructure Forum.

Madam President, while advancing ways and means to derive consensus for full implementation of the key action areas, we must also not lose sight of the need to address other areas also identified in the Agenda including:

- 1). Generating full and productive employment and decent work for all; 2). Promoting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises;
- 3). Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies; and
- 4). Scaling up efforts to end hunger and poverty, amongst others.

### **National Intervention(s)**

Consistent with the aspirations of the Addis Agenda Madam President, Liberia continues to make strides to ensure the enhancement and implementation of its outcomes. We know we must address the overwhelming infrastructure gap, not because we have the means to, but because its multiplying effect across will potentially lift the lives of our people.

This is why, in what we refer to as a Pro-Poor Agenda, we are prioritizing sustained investments in roads, power and health. This includes investments in intra road networks to facilitate freer movements of peoples, goods, services and trade. Bridging the infrastructure gap will also facilitate the much-needed diversification of the economy and enhance ongoing efforts by the Government

to promote value addition to primary products, support key agriculture growth clusters in Rice, Cassava, Vegetable, cocoa, oil palm cultivation. Importantly also, it will create jobs for our needy population.

Sustainable development is about improving the living conditions of the people. This, too, is why, in addition to sustained investments in power and roads, priority is also placed on increasing public sector investments in education, women and youth empowerment, supporting the delivery of essential services, promoting the consolidation of peaceful and inclusive societies as well as pursuing programs to address gender disparities and social vulnerabilities.

Meeting these goals Madam President, require sufficient funding. Thus, a more robust domestic resource mobilization strategy is being developed to include expanding our internal revenue generation and collection, We know our continued commitment to transparency and accountability in public financial management as well as capacitating and strengthening national oversight institutions will be the measure of our resolve in driving these processes.

And yet, while we believe ourselves to be sufficient in political will, we are insufficient in the available resources we so desperately need. We are therefore availing ourselves to the quality of partnerships, regionally and internationally, to assist us both responsibly and sustainably, bridge this important gap.

Finally, the Liberian Delegation wishes to assure you, Madam President, of our preparedness to contribute meaningfully to the discussions, and the subsequent adoption of an agreed outcome document.

I thank you for your kind attention.