



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA
Executive Mansion, Monrovia

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ADDRESS BY:

HIS EXCELLENCY CHARLES GYUDE BRYANT
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF LIBERIA

AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

16 SEPTEMBER 2005



Mr. President

Mr. Secretary-General

Excellencies;

Distinguished ladies & gentlemen:

The people of Liberia extend their profound thanks to the United Nations for its continued assistance in dealing with the challenges our country has had.

Indeed, we are grateful to all who stood, and are still standing by us, to bring about the significant transformation we see in our country today.

In this regard, we particularly want to recognize the efforts of our brothers and sisters from ECOWAS and the African Union. We also extend thanks to our partners in the United States, the European Union, the People's Republic of China, and Switzerland, as well as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank.

We wish to also acknowledge the invaluable role being played by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the troop contributing countries.

Mr. President,

With the critical assistance of the United Nations and commendable donor partnership, our Transitional Government has made definite gains in the execution of its mandate.

The guns are silent; our Disarmament and Demobilization process has been a resounding success; Rehabilitation and Reintegration are ongoing; our people are returning to their communities; government authority has been extended throughout the country, and elections are on schedule for October 11th.



Although there is a shortfall in funding for the critical elements of reintegration and security sector reform, these processes are also ongoing.

Let me emphasize that the net effect of successful *reintegration* and *Security Sector Reform* in Liberia will be **sustainable peace and stability not only for Liberia, but also for the entire West Africa sub region.**

Excellencies:

There is an encouraging sense of renewed hope in the emergence of democratic and stable post-conflict countries in our region. However, the challenges of rebuilding communities and directing, particularly our youths, away from deviant social behaviors, remain daunting.

Excellencies:

Sixty years ago, our country was among those who brought into being this distinguished institution. Since then, **global priorities have changed.**

Millions of the world's peoples, particularly women and children, continue to live in death-threatening poverty and ignorance. Over twenty thousand people die daily because of poverty and diseases, many of which are preventable and curable.

The Millennium Declaration and the Brussels Program **offer realistic ways forward to effectively overcome such worldwide scourges as poverty, global warming, HIV-Aids, malaria, cancer and other fatal diseases--** particularly as these affect poorer member states.

We believe that member states must commit themselves now, more than ever, to respect human rights and the dignity of **all** persons—irrespective of the size and global standing of their respective countries.

This approach can help minimize the polarization of international politics, as we have known it, especially since in recent history our world has witnessed the exploitation of the poor not only by rich nations but also by rich individuals in poor countries in support of terrorism.



This is why my government fully supports the ongoing consultations for reform of the United Nations.

We must however, ensure that the reform process is based on broad consultation and consensus involving a// member States.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished ladies & gentlemen.

Even as Liberia emerges from a prolonged period of strife, as a founding member of this august organization, we remain committed to the ideals that fostered the establishment of the United Nations.

The success of Liberia's transition process thus far demonstrates how much can be achieved by the international community through the United Nations.

Let me seize this opportunity to again thank the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, through whose inspired leadership, the international community rallied to our cause.

Mr. Secretary General we will continue to count on you and the international community as we strive to peacefully attain the last component of our two-year mandate, that is, the holding of free, fair and transparent elections, and thereafter undertake the overwhelming post-conflict reconstruction agenda that awaits the democratically elected government in a conflict-free Liberia.

I Thank you!