

**Statement by the Chair of the PBC Liberia Configuration,
Security Council briefing on 5 May 2015**

Mr. President,

If no new cases are reported, Liberia will be officially declared
Ebola-free this Saturday on May 9. But this is not the time to

lower our guard. Focused efforts will still be needed to ensure

be key to these efforts.

Secondly, there is need to address state-society relations and trust in state institutions. A major part of this is to focus more on strengthening accountability, legitimacy and institutional capacity, including through empowering the various independent commissions. This also includes enhancing state presence and capacity to deliver basic services in the communities as part of the decentralisation process. As UNMIL draw-down and turn over security responsibility, targeted efforts must be made to strengthen the justice and security sectors, including the “software” of security to improve “civilian-

trust. Continuing to deal with some of the outstanding grievances from the civil war, including through accelerating the implementation of the national reconciliation roadmap in an

Mr. President,

The priority for the PBC is to safeguard that peacebuilding gains can be sustained and strengthened. Close coordination with the Security Council will be important in the coming months to help ensure a responsible and seamless transition of UNMIL, including by coordinating with relevant Ebola recovery efforts and by helping to mobilize support and resources for the Government transition plan.

The Ebola crisis exposed how volatile the situation in Liberia still is. But it also demonstrated the determination and resilience of the people of Liberia. The success we celebrate today is much thanks to Liberian political, religious and traditional leaders uniting in collective action. We should build on this experience and seize the opportunity for change as we take the next steps in support for a peaceful and prosperous Liberia.