

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission Liberia Configuration

12 November 2020

Chair's Summary

1. On 12 November 2020, H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations and Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (P*#+), convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting for the Government of Liberia and international partners to update on priorities for continued support to building and sustaining peace in Liberia, with a focus on Liberia's senatorial elections, referendum on transitional constitutional reform and two representative bodies (elections, special election) for 12 December 2020, and the re-issuance of women's participation and empowerment in Liberia.
 2. In her opening remarks, the Chair recalled the meeting of the Configuration in April (focus on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the country), and her subsequent visit to Liberia, meeting with the Government and civil society, as well as meetings with the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Women Executive Director, and the UN Women Liberia Representative. She noted that one of the key messages of her mission with civil society organizations in Liberia, was their call for the international community to keep attention on promoting elections, ensuring that they are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. She stressed that the elections and their outcome would pose a significant test to Liberia's peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Liberia over the coming months (as noted the significant challenge for Liberia of the situation related to elections in the region. She highlighted Liberia's strong history of women's participation and leadership in peacebuilding and the importance of efforts to ensure women's full, effective and meaningful participation in these elections. She also noted with concern, reports of increase in gender-based violence in Liberia during the months of COVID-19 and to COVID-19 and women's participation in the Government's response, including in the national response to COVID-19 and the national response to the implementation of a National Roadmap on Rape and Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Violence, and the importance of the role of women's participation and empowerment in the country's recovery and reconstruction.
- > H.E. The Hon. Saa Kema0a!, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia underscored the timelessness of the meeting and the Government's commitment to the goal of free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections, critical to peace and development in Liberia, and in particular efforts to ensure the participation of women, and to address violence against women. He further noted the adoption of appropriate measures to address the situation in Liberia. The Minister updated the Commission on Liberia's national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of the international community, in its

note the -overnment.s 'ontin&e wor4 to a res 'orr&tion an rape as a nationa(emer%en'0. 9!e wor4 of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% 7&n in s&pport of nationa(pea'eb&i(in% priorities was a(so we('ome .

C. Mrs. Zavi etta *rowne \$ansana!, #!airperson of t!e Nationa(E(e'tions #ommission)NE#+ of \$iberia &n ers'ore t!e importan'e of free, fair, 're ib(e an vio(en'e, free e(e'tions to pea'e an stabi(it0 in \$iberia an t!e 'ontin&e wor4 of t!e NE# to en%a%e a((sta4e!o(ers, in'(& in% 'ivi(so'iet0 or%ani:ations, women an persons wit! isabi(it0, Oo&t! %ro&ps, fait! base or%ani:ations, (o'a(non%overnmenta(or%ani:ations, 'omm&nit0 base or%ani:ations, t!e me ia an po(iti'a(parties. 9!e #!airperson &p ate on efforts to ens&re t!e inte%rit0 of t!e voter ro((, in'(& in% t!ro&%! t!e s&pport of "N2P an E#O 8 AS< stron%er 'o((aboration between t!e NE# an t!e \$iberian Nationa(Po(i'e< stren%t!enin% of e(e'tora(isp&te reso(&tion me'!anisms< an wor4 wit! t!e 8 omen.s Sit&ation Room) 8 SR+ \$iberia bran'!, a 'onf(i't mana%ement me'!anism, to re'eive an report information re(ate to vio(en'e a%ainst women. 9!e #!airperson a(so note efforts at (e%is(ative reform to ens&re no (ess t!an >0 per'ent of 'an i ates on po(iti'a(part0 (ists of ea'! %en er. An o&tstan in% '!a((en%e, note b0 t!e #!airperson, is t!e e(a0e re'eipt of f&n in% from t!e -overnment b0 t!e #ommission)wit! "S?@ mi((ion of a tota(b& %et of "S?1>.D mi((ion re'eive +. 3n t!is re%ar , t!e #!airperson 'a((e for internationa(s&pport.

D. On be!a(f of t!e "nite Nations, Mr. Mo!ame 3bn #!ambas, t!e Spe'ia(Representative of t!e Se'retar0, -enera()SRS -+ an Hea of t!e "nite Nations Offi'e for 8 est Afri'a an t!e Sa!e()"NO 8 AS+, an Mr. Kin%(e0 Op&4& Amanin%, t!e "nite Nations Resi ent #oor inator)R#+ in \$iberia a.i. briefe t!e #ommission. 9!e SRS- !i%(i%!te t!e 'onte=t of five Presi entia(e(e'tions in t!e 8 est Afri'an s&b, re%ion< a n&mber of w!i'! !ave s!own !ow &n er(oin% %rievan'es 'an easi(0 trans(ate into po(iti'a(vio(en'e an &p ate on efforts wit! partners in'(& in% -overnments, po(iti'a(parties, 'ivi(so'iet0, E#O 8 AS, A" an ot'er re%iona(or%ani:ations, to 'ontrib&te to 're ib(e, transparent, in'(&sive e(e'tions in t!e interest of re%iona(stabi(it0 an pea'e. *ot! t!e SRS- an R# &p ate t!at wor4 in \$iberia !as in'(& e te'!ni'a(s&pport teams from E#O 8 AS an "N2P assistin% t!e NE# in t!eir efforts to improve an &p ate t!e voter ro(()wit! near(0 >00,000 new voters re%istere , of w!i'! C0 per'ent are fema(e+, an 'ommen e t!e NE# for its !ar wor4< notin% a(so t!e '&rrent b& %et s!ortfa((. E#O 8 AS, t!e R# an "NO 8 AS 'ontin&e to provi e time(0 an effe'tive po(iti'a(fa'i(itation to miti%ate possib(e areas of tension between po(iti'a(sta4e!o(ers, in'(& in% 'oor inatin% '(ose(0 wit! t!e Mano River "nion. 9!e on%oin% wor4 of finan'ia(instit&tions in'(& in% t!e 8 or(*an4, 3M7 an Afri'an 2eve(opment *an4 in a'ompan0in% t!e -overnment of \$iberia in s&stainin% pea'e an eve(opment was a(so 'ommen e .

@. *ot! t!e SRS- an R# note t!e 'ontin&in% '!a((en%es of po(iti'a(representation b0 women< wit! 20 of t!e 111 senatoria('an i ates bein% women, an t!e on(0 fema(e senator.s seat &p

for re, e(e' tion, wit! t!e 'onse/ &ent ris4 of !avin% an a((, ma(e senate fo((owin% t!e e(e' tions.

9!e mar%ina(i:ation of women in po(iti'a((ea ers!ip positions, as we((as 'on'ernin% rates of vio(en'e a%ainst women in t!e 'onte=t of t!e e(e'tions an se=&a(an %en er, base vio(en'e, were emp!asi:e as points of parti'&(ar 'on'ern, an in'(&sion of women an 0o&t! i entifie as 'riti'a(to b&i(in% (astin% pea'e an stabi(it0 in \$iberia.

9!e in ispensab(e ro(e of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% #ommission H an t!e e i'ation an 'ontrib&tion of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% #ommission.s \$iberia 'onfi%&ration H was emp!asise , as a p(atfom for rivin% 'o!eren'e an 'oor ination, an to mobi(ise internationa(s&pport to nationa((0 owne an (e pea'eb&i(in% initiatives, in t!e 'onte=t of t!e e(e'tions an t!e #O532,16 pan emi'.

9!e0 reiterate t!eir s&pport for t!e -overnment of \$iberia an its peop(e an voi'e s&pport for \$iberia.s 'ontin&e efforts to a'!ieve s&stainab(e eve(opment t!ro&%! t!e imp(ementation of t!e Pro,Poor A%en a for Prosperit0 an 2eve(opment, a ress root 'a&ses of 'onf(i't, ma4e pro%ress on o&tstan in% pea'eb&i(in% priorities an 'onso(i ate pea'eb&i(in% %ains, in'(& in% investment in b&i(in% responsive an effe'tive nationa(instit&tions an en'an'in% 'apa'it0 b&i(in%, %overnan'e reform, wor4 on so'ia('o!esion an %en er e/&a(it0, in'(& in% efforts to a ress se=&a(an %en er,base vio(en'e, re'on'i(iation an transitiona(F&sti'e. 3t was note t!at 'ontin&e wor4 to a ress so'io,e'onomi' '!a((en%es, in'(& in% t!ro&%! t!e s&pport of t!e 8 or(*an4, was important. 9!e va(&ab(e 'ontrib&tion of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% 7&n to pea'eb&i(in% in \$iberia was we('ome , an interest e=presse in 'ontin&o&s (earnin% an eve(opment of %oo pra'ti'e t!ro&%! t!e wor4 of t!e 7&n .

#ross,bor er '!a((en%es, in'(& in% t!e in'rease in ref&%ees, an 'on'erns abo&t re%iona(stabi(it0 were a(so !i%!(!i%!te , in'(& in% t!e s&pportive ro(e of " NO 8 AS an E#O 8 AS an 'o((aboration wit! t!e Mano River " nion. 9!ere was a s&%%estion t!at t!e s'a(in% &p of 'ross,bor er proFe'ts s!o&(be e=p(ore , in'(& in% t!ro&%! partnerin% wit! internationa(finan'ia(instit&tions.

6. Mr. Os'ar 7ernan e:;9aran'o, Assistant Se'retar0, -enera(for Pea'eb&i(in% S&pport we('ome t!e oppor&nit0 for t!e #ommission to a%ain be an internationa(so(i arit0 p(atfom for \$iberia wit! a time(0 is'&ssion in s&pport of 're ib(e an t

agree with the value of salaries (earnings from the 7th . \$004 in forward , the said the 7th is equal to the low it is support continuation in the financial states of the two parties in proposals from the Soviet organizations, submit the annual competitive environment and the promotion initiative.

10. This is the main remark, H.E. Mr. Srae (2 avies, #1ar%I .Affaires, Mission of Siberia to the United Nations, reaffirms the importance of the relations and the strengthening of the role in Siberia, and the press reports to the international community, the United Nations, working to meet the needs of the Commission and the participation of Ambassador Eneström, and the Parties in the Support Office and the Parties in the 7th .

11. The main part of the briefers and the note of the man and the work being carried out in order to create a conducive environment for the relations, and the achievement of the important role of the relations to the continuation of the work towards the relations are on the way in an order, in a clear and transparent manner. The main part of the need to continue to support the Soviet observer networks and allow them to participate in strengthening the role and to this end , the Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia is supporting the Parties in the Office of the Secretary of State, in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and other partners in the Situation Room on #0532,16 relate issues and the participation of the relations. The above note that efforts to ensure that women actively participate in the relations need to continue, and the government to continue its work in a serious manner reports of