BRIEF REMARKS BY
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PLENiPOTENTIARY
& PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS EXECUTIVE
BOARD MEETING ON DRAFT PROGRAMME
DOCUMENT (CPD) OF LIBERIA
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

Mr. Chair

Members of the Executive Board of UNDP

Excellencies

Well Wishers, Colleagues and Friends

Thank you for the opportunity, and for organizing this very important Executive Board meeting of UNDP.

Let me first express our gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme, and all our partners for their relentless effort in facilitating the preparation of this development framework document for Liberia.

I also extend thanks to previous speakers for their brilliant and positive interventions and comments to this endeavor.

Judging from the contents of the Country Programme Document (CPD), anyone can deduce that a lot of energy was employed in its development.
We are pleased with the primary objective of the Liberia Country Programme Document (CPD); and acknowledge the pivotal role UNDP intends to continue to assume; in addressing the existing challenges we face as a country.

The priority areas outlined in the document; with specific reference to UNDP programming are well-structured, and they; evidently align with the Government of Liberia's Flagship National Development Agenda – The Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD); envisioned and launched by His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia.

As you are also aware, the core objective of our Pro-Poor Agenda is for Liberia to sustainably reduce poverty and achieve middle-income status by 2030.

As a country, we also view the Country Programme Document as an opportunity for a renewed comprehensive partnership between the United Nations and the Government of Liberia, and in particular; it aims to achieve a more sustainable pathway to renewed progress and prosperity; as well as consolidated peace, and security in Liberia; especially; with coherent and effective support from the United Nations.
As we embark on the approval of the Country Programme Document for Liberia for the period; 2020 to 2024; allow me to draw your kind attention to the following; hoping that adjustments could be made when and where possible:

1. Paragraph Three (3) of the document highlights critical issues faced by women in the country. However, it does not speak much to efforts the Government of Liberia is making to address these issues. The Government of Liberia has conducted and stepped up awareness campaigns against compromised settlements; resulting from sexual based violence against women. In July this year, the Government of Liberia signed into law, the Domestic Violence Act – a legal instrument that seeks to abolish all forms of violence meted out against women, children and men;

Additionally, the Government of Liberia and relevant partners also launched the “Spotlight Initiative” in June this year. The initiative focuses on reducing the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices; and increasing women’s access to sexual and reproductive health services.

2. In paragraph Twenty-four (24), the document mentions, among others, “enhancing legal literacy”; which we also; very well appreciate. In furtherance of enhancing legal literacy, we strongly recommend that one significant way to achieve this goal is to provide assistance to the initiatives of institutions such as the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law of the University of Liberia; the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia, National Bar Association of Liberia and the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL).
As the access to justice; and the upholding of the rule of law remain among top priorities of His Excellency President Weah, the Government and People of the Republic of Liberia; continuous support to the justice system of Liberia; with a focus on Liberia’s judiciary, will be highly appreciated for inclusion in this Country Programme Document for Liberia.

To this end, we look forward to the mid-term review of the Country Programme Document; where possible adjustments could be made to reflect current realities; in view of specific strides the Government of Liberia and partners would make to consolidate hope for the People of Liberia; and sustain an enabling society to enhance economic growth and development.

In view of the aforementioned recommendations; and pursuant to the contents of the Country Programme Document presented; we hereby endorse; and support the approval of the Country Programme Document for Liberia by the UNDP Executive Board.

On behalf of His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, the Government and People of the Republic of Liberia, let me assure UNDP and partners of our fullest support; as we together strive to achieve the objectives of the Country Programme Document for Liberia.
In conclusion, let me once again; on behalf of His Excellency President Weah, the Government and People of the Republic of Liberia, express our deepest gratitude to all of you; particularly our UNDP Family, for the laudable contributions to this Country Programme Document for Liberia. We trust that this comprehensive and well-framed document will be, among others; the crucial basis for increased and continuous cooperation between the United Nations and the Republic of Liberia; and the medium for renewed and sustained support by the United Nations for economic growth and development, peace and prosperity in Liberia.

I thank you!