



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf New ECOWAS Chair

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DIPLOMATIC DIARY

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Message From the Minister of Foreign Affairs



Greetings and a warm welcome to our very first edition of *Diplomatic Diary*, the official magazine of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Today, we have added another flavor to the Ministry's public affairs activities, a thought that has been enduring in mind and has now become a reality.

The Bureau of Public Affairs is charged with the responsibility to provide adequate information to the public on Government's Foreign Policy and disseminate information emanating from Government to the Liberian Missions abroad as well as Diplomatic and Consular Missions accredited near Monrovia.

Although the print and electronic media institutions are most often used to disseminate information to various partners and interlocutors, the need for the publication of a quarterly magazine that highlights and documents diplomatic activities of the President of the Republic of Liberia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both at home and abroad, for posterity, cannot be over-emphasized.

Proper communication plays a pivotal role in an institution's development, and *Diplomatic Diary* intends to reinforce increased awareness, improved interaction and integration between Liberia, its Missions abroad and its partners.

The progress of any society mainly depends on the many people who work behind the scenes, and overtime, planning the smallest details. This magazine will be a medium to provide proper acknowledgement and respect for all of these efforts and its attaining results.

As such, this 40-page magazine will serve as a snapshot of the various activities, most especially diplomatic initiatives and advancements, undertaken at the level of the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Diplomatic Diary is intended to be published quarterly, and this inaugural issue highlights major diplomatic activities undertaken by the Ministry and the country's foreign Missions over the last two quarters (January - June 2016). This edition also includes diplomatic activities of the President of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, including State Visits, meetings involving ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations or others in the interest of the country.

In subsequent editions, we will highlight important activities of the various regional and functional bureaus appertaining to cooperation matters and other engagements with members of the Diplomatic Corps here.

Thanks to all, most especially our first readers, who have taken time off to read this maiden edition. It is expected that support for this endeavor will be provided through your valuable suggestions and comments.

This is only a small step towards a journey that ends when this administration expires in January 2018. To achieve progress and meet the objectives, we have to cross numerous milestones. This maiden edition of *Diplomatic Diary* should inspire all of us for a new beginning, enlightened with hope, confidence and faith in each other on the road ahead.... Pleasant Reading!!!!



President Sirleaf, the First Female, Elected As Chair of ECOWAS;

ECOWAS leaders attending the 49th Ordinary Session of the Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

- Sets Key Priorities For Her One-Year Tenure

After more than 35 years, Liberia has again been elected Chair of a regional organization, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

On July 12, 1979, President William R. Tolbert, Jr. was elected Chairperson of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), at a session held in Virginia, Liberia, but he was assassinated nine months later, on April 12, 1980.

At the King Fahd Palace in Dakar, Senegal, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected Chairperson of ECOWAS at the 49th Ordinary Session of the Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government on June 4, 2016. Incidentally, she again broke the gender-ceiling by becoming the first female to assume that role since the organization's formation in 1975. The Liberian leader will serve a one-year term, taking the mantle of authority from

Senegalese President Macky Sall.

In her acceptance speech, President Sirleaf described her election as an indication of the progress and peace Liberia enjoys, which would not have been possible without the tremendous sacrifices and solidarity of the ECOWAS community.

She commended her Senegalese counterpart, President Macky Sall, whose extraordinary leadership guided the work of the organization in the past year; paid tribute to the former president of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Kadre Désiré Ouadraogo, for the able manner in which he managed the affairs of the Community; and congratulated his successor, His Excellency Marcel Alain de Souza, and team as they assume their responsibilities.

Hitting the ground running, President Sirleaf set out key priorities she hopes to address during her chairmanship of the sub-regional organization, including the consolidation of peace and security architecture as guided by the mechanisms and other protocols; and the need to work harder, as Member States, to stem terrorism, strengthen intelligence capacity and enhance coordination with the African Union, the United Nations and other partner institutions.

The Liberian President extended sympathy to citizens of the Community victimized by armed attacks, and stressed the need to ensure that there will be no expansion of terrorism in the sub-region. She highlighted the gratuitous attacks in Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and, most recently, Niger. She added that ECOWAS must also,



through collective and determined efforts, ensure that Boko Haram is totally defeated.

The new ECOWAS Chair called for the conclusion of negotiations and legal actions to enhance trade integration, but warned that failure to close the negotiations could lead to differentiation among Member States.

She also called upon the countries which have not ratified and commenced the enforcement of the Common External Tariff (CET), thereby deepening the potential for trade and productive integration in the Community, to do so.

President Sirleaf also proposed to her colleagues the ardent need to achieve transformation of Vision 2020 through agriculture and infrastructure, adding that



Foreign Minister Marjon Kamara and Liberia's delegation at the 49th ECOWAS Authority's Summit

the impressive success of several ECOWAS countries in value addition in agriculture can be expanded and trade integration enhanced through the acceleration of ongoing regional projects in roads, energy and railroads.

She pointed out that during her tenure, the imperative will be to holistically improve financial stability through existing protocols and mechanisms, which call for fi-

ancing the Community through contributions of the Community levy by Member States in order to meet the operational costs of the institutions and to respond to security emergencies such as those faced by peacekeeping troops in Mali and Guinea Bissau.

She observed that recent financial difficulties imposed by global conditions have affected ECOWAS' ability to meet commitments despite tremendous efforts, but she joined colleagues in commending His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari for the relief brought by his recent expressed commitment to continue Nigeria's support to the community levy, but stressed that "we can do more".

The new ECOWAS Chairperson pointed out that there is space for cost saving through continued rationalization and reduction in the multiple activities and high benefits of community institutions, for which she commended Commission president de Souza for the important steps he has so far taken to achieve this objective. "We must institute 'a call to action' to finalize the ongoing review of the restructuring of Community institutions", she underscored.

The Liberian Chief Executive recalled the 48th Summit of the Authority, held in Abuja, marking the 40th Anniversary of ECOWAS, mentioning the achievements during the last four decades across all sectors – including the harmonization of macroeconomic policies, trade integration, regional infrastructure, peace and security, regional institutional development, democracy and the rule of law.

She stressed that as the Community moves towards the achievement of such lofty goals, it faces both challenges and opportunities, such as the sharp reduction in commodity prices and the effect of epidemiological outbreaks which have resulted in a decline in investment and growth. Beyond financial difficulties, she indicated that growth is affected by terrorism, drug and human trafficking, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the impact of climate change.



Liberia's New Foreign Minister – - Ms. Marjon Vashti Kamara

Liberia's has a new Foreign Minister. She is Ms. Marjon Vashti Kamara, the third female to hold the position. She follows in the footsteps of Madam Dorothy Musuleng Cooper, who served from 1994-1995, and Madame Olubanke King-Akerele, who served from 2007- 2010. She is the fifth Liberian top diplomat since President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf took office on January 16, 2006.

Minister Kamara was appointed by the Liberian President in January 2016 and confirmed by the Liberian Senate in February 2016. She previously served as Liberia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Addressing the Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs during her confirmation hearing on how she foresees her new preferment, Ms. Kamara responded: "It is a home coming for me and I can only assure this Committee that I am qualified for this job. I have the academic preparation, my experience, and I will bring to this job the experience which I have acquired through over 40 years of professional work in and out of government, unwavering commitment to duty, as well as a problem-solving approach and not just to complain."

Minister Kamara, in addition, brings to her new assignment over 25 years of experience working within the United Nations, in the areas of humanitarian affairs with emphasis on policy, strategy and program development and hands-on management of field operations. This extensive experience was acquired as a staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), where she most recently served as Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa at the organization's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland (2005-2009). In this position she was the principal advisor on operations in Africa, covering 32 countries on the Continent.

During the Ambassador's career with UNHCR, she also undertook field assignments in Ethiopia, Uganda, Angola and Tanzania covering the entire spectrum of UNHCR operations, from emergency and stable refugee situations, to repatriation, reintegration, resettlement and local integration. In the latter two

countries, (Angola and Tanzania), she served as the UNHCR Representative, providing overall supervision, direction, policy guidance and oversight of all UNHCR operations in the respective countries.

Minister Kamara's service within the Government of Liberia dates back to 1974, when she was employed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she held several positions over the years. These included: Director of the Bureau of African and Asian Affairs (1976-1977), as well as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (1977-1980). In this latter position she travelled extensively and participated in numerous international conferences, including sessions of the UN General Assembly, as well as meetings of the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement. Her appointment as Permanent Representative effectively marked her return to Government service.

Liberia's Minister of Foreign



Foreign Minister Marjon Kamara poses with staff of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations as she ends her tour of duty.

Affairs received her Master's and Bachelor of Arts Degrees, 1973 and 1970, respectively, in Political Science (with emphasis on international relations and with focus on Africa and Asia) from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Conscious of the timeframe and the current economic constraints facing the country, she promised to build on what her predecessors started and improve further on policies in place, when questioned by the Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs on what she hopes to achieve during her tenure.

But what is her vision for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Ms. Kamara has as her core vision the achievement of the country's national interests in line with the Agenda for Transformation (AFT) and the post-Ebola Economic Recovery and Stabilization Plan (ESRP).

"As government is continuity, I will start off with the top three priorities: (1) improving service de-

livery to and relations with clients and Liberians; (2) transforming the Liberian Foreign Service; and (3) effectively operationalize existing bilateral and multilateral agreements for speedy economic recovery, growth and development. These priorities will over time be reviewed to reprioritize where the need exist," she told the Senate Committee.

Besides, Minister Kamara hopes to reach out more effectively to regions across the world where there are concentrations of Liberians with consular needs, especially Liberians needing passports, through the dispatch of mobile passport application centers; review and harmonize visas issued at all Liberian embassies to enhance accountability and control; as well as review, collate and produce a reference manual for all laws printed into handbills by the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Kamara, a former Ambassador herself, assured that our missions around the world

are representative of the country and will not be "eye sores" in the capitals where they are accredited. She informed the lawmakers that some of the country's embassies and chanceries are in bad structural state, and it is imperative that government endeavors to refurbish these embassies and restore dignity. Likewise, she vowed to resolve all diplomatic land issues at home and abroad.

The Liberian Foreign Minister urged the strengthening of relationship between the Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs and, by extension, the National Legislature. "When we forge closer working ties that do not begin and end with confirmation, we can then be positioned to effectively address not only issues relating to the ratification of instruments to which the country is signatory but that we can bring to bear collective wisdom in passing decisions on the broader issues involving our foreign relations," she advised.

She reminded the Committee that Liberians are facing challenges with fully participating in some high-level international arrangements and leveraging their potentials, like the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, because the National Legislature has not ratified some Conventions and Protocols.

In view of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) draw-down, Ms. Kamara pledged to intensify the Ministry's interaction with the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Office, which coordinates with the district peace councils, and strategize on ways in which Liberia's Missions abroad can play a more active role in courting technical and logistical support for the Justice and Security Sector.

Highlighting these ambitious targets, Foreign Minister Kamara cautioned the Senate Committee that these can only be achieved if the necessary budgetary allocations are made. She appealed for the Committee's continued advocacy with their colleagues for a better budget for the Ministry that will empower it to achieve its objectives.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomes President Sirleaf to his office.

Liberia Courts Israel to Strengthen Security a

As terrorism becomes an increasing threat in the sub-region and beyond, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has sought assistance from the State of Israel to complement Liberia's security preparedness in the wake of the UN Mission's drawdown and handing over security to the Liberian Government by June 30, 2016.

During a courtesy call on June 9, in Tel Aviv, Israel, President Sirleaf and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu re-echoed the need for the long-standing relationship between the two countries to be converted into concrete initiatives which will benefit both nations. Besides strengthened engagement in the area of security cooperation, the Liberian leader requested assistance in agricultural development, advanced information and communication, technology (ICT) and energy.

As a result of the consensus reached between the two leaders, a delegation of Israeli experts is expected in Liberia shortly to carry out an assessment to determine tangible projects.

President Sirleaf used the occasion to extend her condolence to the Israeli Prime Minister, Government and people, including the bereaved families of the four persons killed in a shooting terror attack in Tel Aviv's popular Saron Market the previous evening. Three others were seriously hurt. She described terrorism as a transnational menace, whose eradication requires more cooperation amongst nations.

The Liberian President recalled attacks in the West African sub-region, most recently in Côte d'Ivoire, including the wave of terror attacks being carried out by Boko Haram in Nigeria and neighboring countries, which must be tackled collectively. She said ECOWAS Member States were now doing more in the areas of strategic coordination amongst

its security forces as a means of having a more effective campaign against terrorism in the region. She stressed that terrorism has the potential of rolling back the economic and developmental gains made over the years if allowed to thrive.

In response, Prime Minister Netanyahu called for more intelligence sharing and the enhancement of capabilities to defeat terrorism, which he said seeks to take the world back to the chaos and carnage of early medieval days. He said Israel is ready to provide such capabilities and work with African nations at bilateral and multilateral levels.

He congratulated President Sirleaf for her election as Chairperson of ECOWAS, and encouraged her to use her position to provide the leadership required for closer ties between Israel and Africa; adding, "Such cooperation will be mutually beneficial to all parties."

The Israeli Prime Minister promised to use his upcoming visit to East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda)

to reiterate his call for greater cooperation amongst Israel and African countries. "After East Africa, my next visit will be to West Africa, Madam President. I look forward to you hosting me soon," he said.

Responding to an earlier call by President Sirleaf for more efforts by the parties involved to bring an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Prime Minister Netanyahu said he is ready to meet with Palestinian authorities anywhere for direct talks without any preconditions.

President Sirleaf had earlier called on all sides to the conflict to give peace a chance, adding that this will have a positive effect on global peace and security.

Earlier, the Liberian President paid a visit to former Israeli President Shimon Peres at his Center for Peace Organization headquarters, in the coastal city of Jaffa. There, the two Nobel Laureates

and Agriculture



President Sirleaf upon receipt of her Honorary Doctorate from Haifa University.



President Sirleaf being decorated at the auspicious Honorary event.



President Sirleaf in discussion with former Israeli President Shimon Peres.

exchanged views on a wide variety of perspectives on human development, poverty eradication, education, entrepreneurship and humanitarianism. President Sirleaf and former Prime Minister Peres agreed to each designate a special envoy to work our modalities for the Center for Peace to assist Liberia in those areas.

During her visit to Israel, President Sirleaf was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) for her distinguished and invaluable contributions to humanity by Haifa University, at a colorful event in Tel Aviv. She also delivered a lecture at a forum organized on behalf of the faculty and students of Haifa University on the topic: "Quest for Unity and Transformation".



Foreign Minister Kamara Meets with Diplomats Promises to Deepen Cooperation, Strengthen

Cross-section of the diplomats accredited near Monrovia at the interactive dinner on March 17.

Foreign Minister Marjon V. Kamara has assured members of the diplomatic community that she will utilize every opportunity to deepen cooperation between Liberia and their respective governments and organizations during her stewardship as Liberia's Foreign Minister.

"I pledge to continue and build upon the cordial working relationships that I have found in place for mutually beneficial results this year and beyond," she assured the foreign diplomats accredited near Monrovia.

Minister Kamara made the statement when she hosted an

Interactive Dinner with heads of diplomatic missions, international organizations and consular corps at the C. Cecil Dennis, Jr. Auditorium on March 17.

She used the occasion to thank members of the Diplomatic Corps for their bilateral and multilateral support towards the national priorities of the Government and urged

their continued support for the key priorities of the Foreign Ministry, which are: to improve service delivery to clients, which includes the Diplomatic Corps; transform the country's Foreign Service and to effectively operationalize bilateral and multilateral agreements for speedy economic recovery, growth and development of Liberia.

The Minister acknowledged there were many agreements signed with development partners but that those agreements have not been fully implemented.



omatic Corps; en Ties

She pledged to ensure that these agreements are revisited and reviewed for full implementation.

She thanked the Diplomatic Corps for honoring her invitation to attend the event and at the same time conveyed best wishes on behalf of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the Liberian Government.

In response on behalf of his colleagues, the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, Guinean Ambassador H.E. Abdoulaye Dore, congratulated Foreign Minister Kamara, and expressed confidence that 2016 would be a prosperous year for Liberia and its diplomatic relations with other countries. He also ex-



Cameroonian Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Mr. Beng'Yela Augustine Gang, on behalf of his colleagues, responds to a toast from Foreign Minister Kamara as the Doyan of the Diplomatic Corps, Guinean Ambassador, H. E. Abdoulaye Dore, listens attentively.

pressed happiness that Liberia had entered the New Year without any new case of Ebola, which will enable members of the diplomatic community to strengthen ties and cooperation with the country.

He used the occasion to convey, on behalf of his colleagues, warm greetings and appreciation to President Sirleaf for her exemplary leadership shown, especially the manner in which she responded to the Ebola outbreak. He particularly hailed the Liberian leader for the development initiatives she continues to undertake even in the post-Ebola era, evidenced by the recent inauguration of the Gbarnga-Ganta highway project that was witnessed by him and his diplomatic colleagues.

While hailing the appointment of the new Minister, Ambassador Dore pledged their fullest support and cooperation, and promised to work with the new Minister who he said has come with a wealth of experience.

At the same time, he thanked the then Acting Foreign Minister, B. Elias Shoniyin, for his hard work and cooperation during his tenure amidst difficulties.

Proffering a toast to Minister Ka-

mara on behalf of his colleagues, Cameroon's Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Mr. Beng'Yela Augustine Gang expressed confidence that Minister Kamara, who has come to the post with vast experiences from the UN-HCR and the UN, will work to cement ties with members of the Diplomatic Corps. Showering praises on the Madam Kamara, he further wished that the Minister's tenure would afford members of the Diplomatic Corps the opportunity to benefit from her vast experience.

Ambassador Gang noted that despite the huge challenges in dealing with people working both at the Ministry and those at the diplomatic missions abroad, he was confident that Minister Kamara would deliver to expectation.

According to him, during her tenure there would be what he called "no danger" as a result of the kind of relationship she will build with members of the diplomatic community. He wished confidently that the opportunity given the new Minister to serve would enable all countries and international organizations represented in Liberia to benefit from her vast experience as they build cordial ties of friendship with Liberia.



The EU Delegation that participated in the 4th EU-Liberia Political Dialogue at the C. Cecil Dennis, Jr. Auditorium on May 17. (Inset: H. E.. Ms. Tina Intelmann, Ambassador and Head of EU Delegation to Liberia)

At the end of 4th EU-Liberia Political Dialogue

The European Union (EU) and the Liberian Government held their 4th Political Dialogue on May 17, where the EU expressed explicit confidence in the Government’s ability to take full responsibility for its own security following the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) drawdown at the end of June 2016.

Both parties recognized that peace and security are germane to governance and development, and therefore agreed to continue collaboration on justice and security sector reform and stressed the importance of appropriate resource allocation for that sector.

They also shared views and concerns on the current security situation in the country and further affirmed their willingness to continue dialogue on issues of shared concern, such as counter-terrorism.

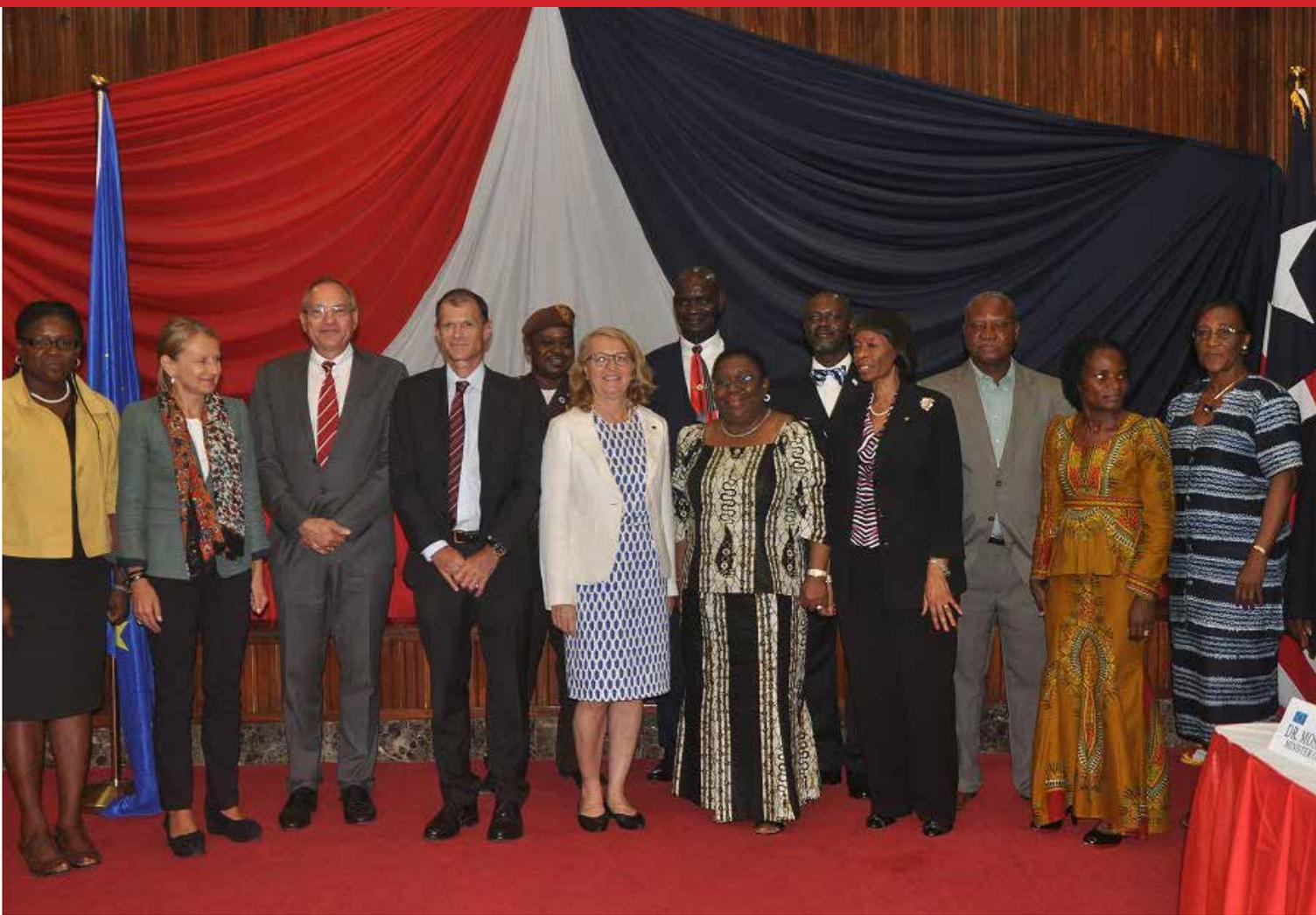
The 4th EU-Liberia Political Di-

alogue covered a wide range of issues, including the justice and security sector, human rights, the 2017 presidential and legislative elections, the Liberian economy, development strategies and investment climate. The Dialogue, the theme of which was “Conditions for Peace and Economic Growth,” was held at the C. Cecil Dennis, Jr. Auditorium.

Commenting on the upcoming 2017 presidential and legislative elections, in a joint press release after the Dialogue, the EU and Liberia recognized the elections as a key moment in the country’s

post-conflict history and expressed confidence in the National Elections Commission, recounting its recent track record of peaceful, free and fair elections. Earlier, the Government provided an update on the preparatory work, including the financial and legislative requirement for smooth elections.

The EU recalled its significant support already provided through the €10 million (euros) commitment for the 2015-2018 electoral cycle support project, as well as its budget support to the Government of Liberia. Both parties agreed to con-



Participants at the 4th EU-Liberia Political Dialogue pose for a photograph after the meeting on May 17.

Dialogue, Parties Reinforce Political Relations

continue dialogue on electoral issues.

On human rights and the rule of law, Liberia and the EU acknowledged the significant progress made in building and strengthening institutions and putting in place processes to protect and promote human rights.

The EU urged Liberia to do more to meet the commitments it has made internationally and to the people of Liberia, particularly on sexual and gender-based violence, and expressed its hope for the swift passage of the Domestic Violence Act, without amendment.

Both parties agreed on the importance of good governance as well as strong anti-corruption measures, including credible investigations and prosecutions by the relevant Liberian authorities.

On economic and trade issues, the Government enumerated the austerity measures adopted to re-

spond to the budget deficit, as well as those instituted to diversify the economy and stimulate growth in light of the grim impact of the Ebola Virus Disease and the fall in global commodity prices. The Government also recounted measures taken to secure long-term development by expanding economic growth and private sector investment, including in the agriculture sector, through value-addition.

The EU welcomed these efforts and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Liberia through direct grant budget support, advising that a budget support disbursement of up to €16.5 million has recently been approved by Brussels. Both parties agreed to hold a regular comprehensive dialogue on all aspects of budget support.

As to the issuance of Schengen visas in Liberia -- a serious problem for Liberians wanting to

travel to Europe and the difficulties they encounter -- both parties agreed to work on the modalities. The EU acknowledged the current challenges facing Liberians in securing visas, and committed itself to exploring all possible options to mitigate the problem.

The Liberian delegation was headed by Her Excellency Ms. Marjon Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Her Excellency Ms. Tiina Intelmann, Ambassador and Head of the European Delegation to Liberia, led the EU delegation.

Article 8 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States) establishes a regular and comprehensive political dialogue leading to commitments on both sides. The Dialogue was formally launched in Liberia in June 2012.

Foreign Minister Kamara, 13 Others Commits Themselves to Implement Prioritized Actions in the



President Sirleaf administers the Oath of Office to some members of the Cabinet commissioned on April 5.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has cautioned commissioned officials of government that the next few months will be an interesting and challenging time; but added that she was confident in the ability of the honorees to stay focused, exhibit the competence that led to their appointments and, more importantly, their commitment to country. "Remain strong, be ready to face whatever comes," she urged her officials.

The Liberian leader made the comments during the commissioning and investiture ceremonies of 14 officials of government, including Foreign Minister Marjon Kamara at the C. Cecil Dennis, Jr. Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on April 5, 2016.

Touching on exciting times ahead, the Liberian President reminded the officials that they held the last baton to take the administration to the finish line and that everything will be depending on them. She indicated that they wouldn't be able to accomplish everything they set out to achieve, but was confident that she could count on them to do their best.

"May God give you the strength to take whatever may come your way, but I know He will strengthen you to be able to be successful as we move along," President Sirleaf said.

Foreign Minister Kamara, on behalf of her colleagues, committed themselves to work in a concerted manner as members of the Cabinet to implement the prioritized actions agreed under their respective portfolios for the good of the country, noting that a strong and inclusive leadership is indispensable to the success of the country's development agenda.

She indicated that under President Sirleaf's inspiring leadership, sound and progressive policies,

Liberia has registered significant improvements in its political, legal and economic systems, though there is still much to be done. She furthered that despite the setbacks and serious economic challenges facing the country, they remain confident in the Liberian President's ability to steer the country on the path to economic prosperity.

Minister Kamara expressed gratitude for their selection to serve this administration in various capacities in the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at transforming the country and the lives of the people.

The Liberian Foreign Minister, who before her appointment served

ers Commissioned;

Agenda for Transformation

as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations in New York, stressed that government's foreign policy of building strong partnerships at the regional and international levels has succeeded in restoring Liberia's image and credibility and has also helped to attract investment, although global economic developments have negatively impacted the investment climate.

In thanking the members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps for their contribution to the wholesome and mutually beneficial relationships developed with Liberia, Minister Kamara committed members of the Cabinet to do their share in nurturing the relationships with development partners. "We undertake to do even better in utilizing effectively assistance provided by our partners and responding expeditiously to offers for collaboration especially in priority areas identified in our Agenda for Transformation," she assured.

On the charge to keep, she admonished her colleagues that to whom much is given, much is expected. Committing her colleagues to the task ahead, Foreign Minister Kamara assured President Sirleaf, "We, your teammates in Cabinet, commit to carry our individual and shared responsibilities with dedication; to consult more and coordinate better among ourselves. We remain mindful of our accountabilitys: first to you to prove worthy of the trust reposed in us; second, to our fellow Liberians to serve with integrity, maintaining focus on national interests; and third, to our Creator who has made it possible, providing the opportunities for us to render service to our country."

Besides being commissioned as Liberia's Foreign Minister and Dean of the Cabinet, Madame Kamara was also admitted into the

Humane Order of African Redemption with the rank of Dame Great Band and Chancellor of the Orders.

Expressing personal gratitude for the honor, Ms. Kamara looked back at what is an uncommon privilege of returning to the Ministry where she launched her professional career, in 1974, as a youthful, agile, creative, energetic and curious young woman. "With the passage of time, there has been some erosion along the edges but also a strengthening of determination and persistence in applying the principle that anything worth doing is worth doing well."

Also making remarks, the new Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations, Ambassador Lewis Garseedah Brown, II, said he was proud to have served on President Sirleaf's Cabinet, and prouder still to represent Liberia at the United Nations.

"Encouraged by the diligence with which you continue to lead our country, I undertake this assignment fully aware of its increased responsibilities as our country undertakes two important milestones

in its development – the ongoing drawdown of UNMIL and the ensuing democratic transition of power."

Those commissioned included Ambassador Marjon V. Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Moses Zinnah, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. Lenn Eugene Nagbe, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism; Attorney Neto Zarzar Lighe, Minister of Labour; Mrs. Julia Duncan Cassell, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection; and Ambassador Lewis Garseedah Brown, II, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations.

Also: Cllr. Robert C. Tubman, Chairman, Board of Directors, Liberia Revenue Authority; Mrs. Elfrieda Stewart Tamba, Commissioner-General, Liberia Revenue Authority; Mr. Charles R. Bright and Mrs. Aletha Brown Cooper, Members, Board of Directors, Liberia Revenue Authority; Mr. Oliver R. Rogers, II, Deputy Commissioner-General for Administration, Liberia Revenue Authority; and Mrs. Decontee King Sackie, Deputy Commissioner-General for Operations and Technical Services, Liberia Revenue Authority.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Kamara is admitted into the Humane Order of African Redemption with the rank of Dame Great Band and Chancellor of the Orders.





Panelists at the Special Forum on Threat of Terrorism in the West African Region.

Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute Holds Special Forum on 'Threat of Terrorism'

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the auspices of the Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute, held a special panel discussion on May 6, out of which several recommendations were advanced including: capacity building for security apparatuses in the sub-region, intelligence sharing, early warning and response mechanisms, human security development and collaboration beyond regional geographical factors but joint extensive collaboration of regional cooperation.

The forum, held under the topic: "The Threat of Terrorism in the West African Region and the Need for Greater Collaboration among West African Nations", brought together stakeholders including: government officials, members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, faculty members, students and secu-

rity professionals to discuss and devise strategies for collaboration as well as find ways aimed at preventing and combating terrorism within the sub-region.

The panelists included: the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Dore; the Ambassador of the



Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Mr. Kodjo Asimeng Wadee; the Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Mr. Brima Acha Kamara; and the Ambassador of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Dr. Feni Kouakou.

Others were: the Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency Mr. Beng'Yela Augustine Gang; the Chargé d'Affaires of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Mohammed Tahir; and the Special Representative of ECOWAS, His Excellency Mr. Tunde Assisomo.

The Policy Advisor at the National Security Agency, Mr. Edward Sharpe, also participated in the panel discussion; while a former Information Minister, Dr. Laurence K. Bropleh, served as moderator.

Panelists observed that a universal declaration of terrorism does not exist but several institutions like the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the African Union and the United Nations have devised viewpoints which can be accepted as working definitions for terrorism.



Director General, Dr. Konneh, Ambassador Wallace and Senator Taylor at the Special Forum.



Policy Advisor at the National Security Agency, Mr. Edward Sharpe, makes his presentation.

While religious extremism was identified as a factor, most panelists' views focused on socio-economic and political variables with some geographical factors as principle triggers of terrorism.

Regional cooperation was identified to be collaborating at various fronts but the need for greater collaboration was cross-cutting. As part of the collaborating framework, with key areas mentioned were border crossing points, telecommunication policies, small arms control, intelligence sharing and early warning and response mechanisms.

Panelists advanced key assumptions and arguments including: terrorism is beyond race, religion or ethnic groups; there are economic implications surrounding membership of terrorist groups and that

military approaches alone cannot holistically combat terrorism.

Panelists highlighted regional collaboration as a vehicle through which efforts to combat terrorism can be harnessed.

The panelists' findings showed that before March 13, 2016, there was no notable attack in the Mano River Union basin; domestic terrorism transitioned to cross border and thereby accumulated transnational implications; internationalization of terrorism is evident by existing terrorist groups operating in the sub-region having connections with external terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda; and there are existing regimes and international frameworks to combat terrorism in the sub-region and the region at large.



South Korean Ambassador, H.E. Noh Kyu-duk, presents six SUVs to Deputy Foreign Minister Elias Shoniyin on June 23.

South Korea Presents Six SUV V to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Liberia has presented six brand new Hyundai Santa Fe SUV vehicles to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, valued at nearly US\$133,000.

The vehicles were presented to Deputy Foreign Minister B. Elias Shoniyin by the South Korean Ambassador to Liberia, His Excellency Noh Kyu-duk, on the grounds of the Foreign Ministry on June 23rd.

Speaking at the turn-over ceremony, Ambassador Kyu-duk said this presentation was in fulfillment

of a promise made to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf when he presented his Letters of Credence that his government would provide some vehicles to the Foreign Ministry.

He indicated that his government, through the Embassy, is engaged in many activities in the area of development cooperation in Liberia and will continue to provide such support and assistance. The South Korean Ambassador highlighted a request made by the president of Liberia's Post-Grad-



Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin (r) and South Korean Ambassador, H.E. Noh Kyu-duk (l) confer before the presentation ceremony on June 23.



Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin (r) receives the keys to one of the six SUVs presented to the Ministry by the South Korean Ambassador, H.E. Noh Kyu-duk.

Vehicles

uate Medical Council, who during a recent visit to Seoul, pleaded for support to the institute to strengthen the training of resident doctors. Ambassador Kyu-duk committed that by 2018, South Korea will undertake a multi-million-dollar project on behalf of Liberia's Post-Graduate Medical Council.

He also highlighted his Embassy's intervention at the University of Liberia, including 350 refurbished computers waiting to be exported to Liberia once the nec-

essary formalities are concluded.

The South Korean Ambassador also emphasized the enhanced cooperation in the area of multilateral diplomacy, and extolled Liberia's support to his country in this regard.

In response, Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin thanked the South Korean diplomat for his government's assistance to the Liberia. He pointed out that Ambassador Kyu-duk's frequent visits to Monrovia (he is resident in Abuja, Nigeria) signifies that Liberia-South Korea relations have taken on a new dimension, noting that since taking up his assignment, the Ambassador continues to make his presence felt.

"Without any prejudice, among our non-resident missions accredited to Liberia, South Korea has

been a lot more engaging," Deputy Minister Shoniyin emphasized. He indicated that the South Korean Ambassador's presence is not only felt at the government level, but also at the local level, citing the Ambassador's contribution to the health sector and the University of Liberia, among others.

Minister Shoniyin informed Ambassador Kyu-duk that the government is working towards the appointment of an Honorary Consul to South Korea shortly; in the interim, one of Liberia's missions near South Korea will have concurrent accreditation there until government can establish a full-fledged mission there. He promised to consult with Ambassador Kyu-duk on how to proceed in this regard.

Pictorial



ECOWAS Chair President Sirleaf consults with the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Marcel Alain de Souza, and delegation in Monrovia.



President Sirleaf welcomes U.S. First Lady, Michelle Obama, her daughters and mother to Liberia.



President Sirleaf and Mrs. Michelle Obama chat in the RIA-VIP Lounge as Foreign Minister Kamara and Senator Sheriff look on.



Foreign Minister Kamara bids UN Secretary-General Ban farewell after her tour of duty at the United Nations. (Photo: Courtesy of the UN).



Foreign Minister Kamara and senior Ministry officials meet with France's Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Joel Godeau.



Japan's Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Kaoru Yoshimura, discusses with Foreign Minister Kamara during a courtesy call.



Deputy (Acting) Foreign Minister Shoniyin confers with UNECA Executive Director, Mr. Carlos Lopez, during a courtesy visit on June 23.



China's Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Zhang Yue, meets with Foreign Minister Kamara during a courtesy call.

Pictorial



President Sirleaf poses with the new U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Christine Elder, following the presentation of her Letters of Credence.



President Sirleaf greets the UNECA Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Lopez, during an official visit to Liberia.



Officials of the Liberian Government join President Sirleaf and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Marcel Alain de Souza, for a photograph.



Foreign Minister Kamara signs the Book of Condolence for former German Foreign Minister, Dr. Westerwelle, at the German Embassy on March 22.



UNAIDS Country Director, Betru Woldesemayat, pays a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Kamara.



Foreign Minister Kamara receives South Africa's Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Vanapalan Moodley, at her office.



Foreign Minister Kamara and senior staff meet with the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Marcel Alain de Souza, and delegation.



Foreign Minister Kamara receives a Special Message from her Kenyan counterpart, Dr. Amina Mohamed, delivered by Mr. Silas Kiragu and Mr. Abdi Korane.

Liberia Establishes Diplomatic T



Liberia's Ambassador Thomas and the Kyrgyz Republic Ambassador, Mrs. Kanaïym, sign the Joint Declaration, establishing diplomatic relations on behalf of their respective Governments.

The Republic of Liberia and the Kyrgyz Republic have established diplomatic relations. The Joint Declaration on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed by Liberia's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, His Excellency D. McKinley Thomas, and the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic accredited to the People's Republic of China, Her Excellency Mrs. Baktgulova Kanaïym, on behalf of their respective Governments. The ceremony took place at the Kempinski Hotel, in downtown Beijing, on June 17.

Speaking during the ceremony, Liberia's Ambassador Thomas underscored the need for cooperation on issues of international affairs, specifically in the areas of peace and security, economic cooperation, cultural exchange and people-to-people contact with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. He described the occasion as historic, and indicated that as two Member States of the United Nations they have participated on issues regarding peace and security. He recalled the role Liberia played

ies with Kyrgyz Republic



tives under the administration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

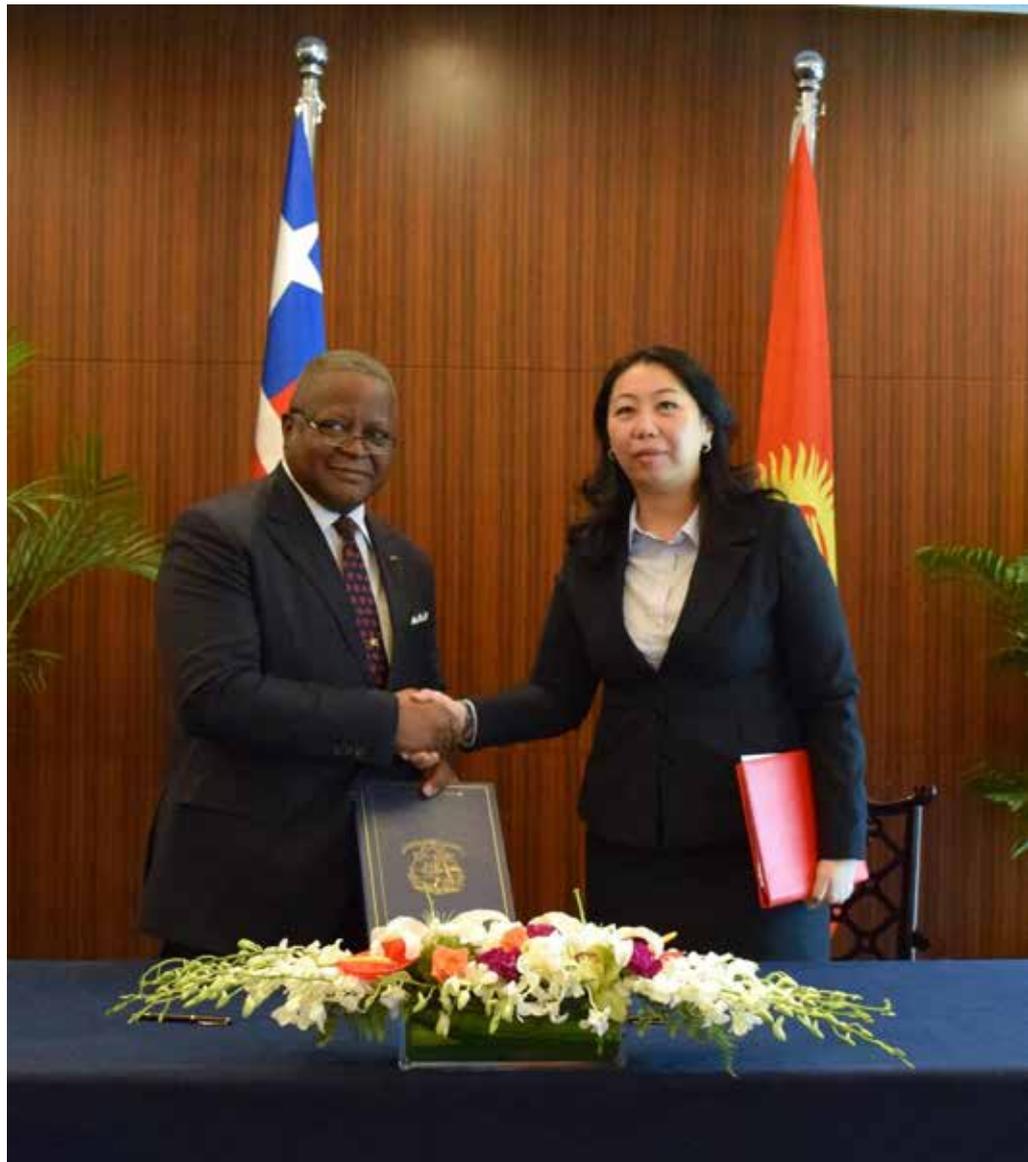
He paid tribute to Ambassador Kanaiym and, through her, proffered a toast to the health, longevity and well-being of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Almazbek Atambaev, on behalf and in the name of the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

In response, Her Excellency Ambassador Kanaiym indicated that the signing ceremony marked a significant turning point in Kyrgyz Republic - Liberia relations and the African Continent as a whole. She

noted that her Government has cooperated with several African countries on international affairs of which Liberia is an integral part.

Ambassador Kanaiym assured that her Government will onwards work with the Government of Liberia on many issues that affect the international community and, in particular, Liberia-Kyrgyz Republic relations. She also requested Ambassador Thomas to convey the good wishes of the President, Government and people of the Kyrgyz Republic for the continued prosperity of the President, Government and people of Liberia.

Liberia's Ambassador Thomas and the Kyrgyz Republic Ambassador, Mrs. Baktgulova Kanaiym, shake hands after they exchange the signed Joint Declaration.



in the United Nations Program on Decolonization and Liberia's fight for the inherent rights of all people to determine their own future.

Similarly, Ambassador Thomas highlighted the role played by the Kyrgyz Republic on issues regarding world peace and security as evident by its participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Liberia.

Ambassador Thomas, who will now have concurrent accreditation, stressed that fostering good relations with the Kyrgyz Republic and other countries within the comity of nations continues to be one of the cornerstones of Liberia's foreign policy objec-

UN Peacebuilding Commission

Reminds Liberians that Maintaining Peace is a Collective Effort



H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, and H.E. Mr. Choong Hee-Han, Chair and member of the PBC (l), and Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin.

The Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) says maintaining peace in Liberia is a collective effort and should not be left with the Government alone. "It requires the full involvement of all Liberians, entire communities and all the institutions and organizations represented here in Liberia," he stressed.

Ambassador Macharia Kamau, at the head of a 14-member delegation of the PBC, made the assertion when he addressed journalists at the end of a four-day visit to Liberia. The team was in the country to assess how the Commission can best support the ongoing post-Ebola recovery process and long-term peacebuilding priorities from a national and regional perspective including Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal.

The PBC delegation briefed na-

tional officials and relevant stakeholders on the outcomes of the groundbreaking reviews of the United Nations Peace Operation, the peacebuilding and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, especially noting the "primacy of politics", conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

The delegation also discussed resolutions of the General Assembly (A/RES/70/262) and the Security Council (S/RES2282 -2016) on

the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, which highlight the need to look beyond post-conflict peacebuilding to embrace the broader concept of "sustaining peace", which encompasses activities aimed at "preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict".

On sustaining peace, Ambassador Kamau used the opportunity to urge Liberians to resolve all political processes within the context of political debates and negotiations rather than resort to conflict.

He noted that elections next year will be crucial, and successful elections will guarantee continued peace in the country. "If Liberia can have successful, peaceful and

Visits Liberia;

ive Effort

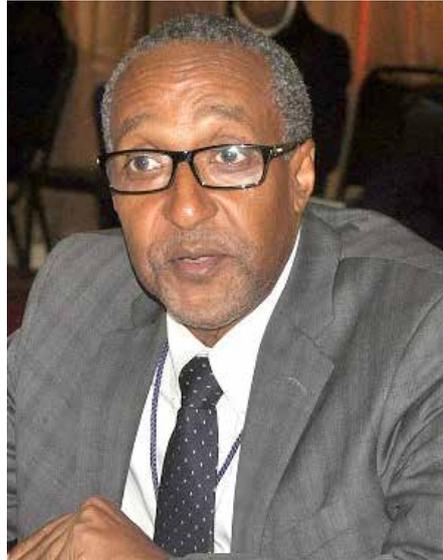
credible elections, I guarantee you this country will be very different in 2018 and the promise of prosperity will be real," he envisioned.

The PBC Chairman indicated that during their many meetings, the issue of reconciliation was high on Liberian minds, and that the people still would like to see a reconciled and inclusive society. "We have urged all the authorities in Liberia, including civil society organizations, to work harder, to remain more committed to this issue of building greater reconciliation as this is one of the guarantors of sustainable peace in Liberia," he cautioned.

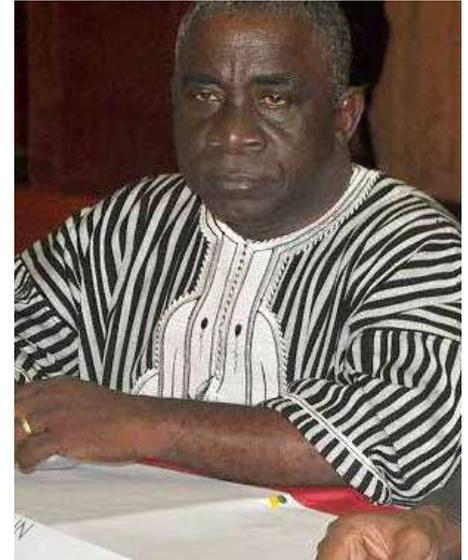
Ambassador Kamau, who is also Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, underscored the importance of issues related to women and youth, particularly in sustaining peace in Liberia.

He urged the Government to create opportunities for youth and older ones who may not be able to go to school so that they can find themselves gainfully employed and less liable to be drawn into the negative activities that create insecurity and undermine peace. "Matters that relate to the forces that undermine peace and security in a country are commonly tied up with issues of youth and young people," he emphasized, adding that many young people are sucked up in these negative activities and undermine peace and create security challenges for the country.

Ambassador Kamau encouraged the gender dimensions of peacebuilding, recognizing that gender is a fundamental issue as women tend to be the main victims when there are issues of insecurity in the country. He said that involving women as equal partners in governance and institutions throughout the country means the country has a better chance of sustaining peace as women have been



H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission addresses the media at the end of a four-day visit to Liberia.



Justice Minister Cherue also addresses the media.

known to be great champions of peace, and ensuring that they are at the center is crucially important.

Earlier, on behalf of the Liberian Government and people, the Justice Minister, Cllr. Frederick Cherue, expressed thanks and appreciation to the Peacebuilding Commission and delegation for their continued support as the country assumes security responsibilities from the UN Mission at the end of June 2016. He urged their continued support to the country during this transition period.

When the Peacebuilding Commission delegation paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. B. Elias Shoniyin, at his Foreign Ministry office on June 10, Ambassador Kamau asserted that Liberia represents an exemplary position to show how a country can transition from crisis to the era of peace, stability and development. He added that following the country's nightmare and now seeing Liberians move on with their lives in a sustained way, represents a remarkable achievement. "So far, there is no question that Liberia's example is something that we want to showcase -- how countries can actually move from crisis to development," he stated.

Ambassador Kamau made the point that Liberia needs to sustain the peace, because it is one thing to make peace but it is another thing to sustain the peace and move forward. He promised that the Commission will invest in Liberia's upcoming elections in an exemplary way, so that the country remains on track for another six years of uninterrupted growth and development.

Deputy Minister Shoniyin welcomed the delegation to Liberia on behalf of Foreign Minister Marjon Kamara, who was out of the country on official business. He concurred with the Commission's Chair that their work in Liberia has been overwhelmingly successful and the country has made significant gains in three core areas, including governance, security and reconciliation, particularly at the critical time when the UN Mission in Liberia is transferring national security to the Liberian Government at the end of June 2016.

He further stressed that at this time in Liberia's political history, it is most important for the Peacebuilding Commission to continue its engagement, especially as Liberia gears up for an election in 2017 which will usher in a new administration.

Ambassador Brown Presents Letters of Credence to UN Secretary-General;

Vows to Promote Good Image of Liberia on the Global Stage



Ambassador Brown poses with the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban, after presenting his Letters of Credence. (Courtesy of the UN)

Liberia's Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations, His Excellency Lewis Garseedah Brown II, has promised to work closely with the United Nations Secretariat, its various agencies as well as the membership to advance the cherished goals of the organization, while ensuring that Liberia's interests are protected and promoted.

Ambassador Brown made the remarks when he presented his Letters of Credence to the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during a ceremony at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Thursday, June 30.

Liberia's Permanent Representative conveyed, on behalf of Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the Government and people of Liberia, immense gratitude to the United Nations family, as well as bilateral, regional and multilateral partners for the continued support to consolidating Liberia's peace, security and stability.

"Liberians remain grateful and are determined to continue its efforts towards consolidating the peace, security and the stability of their country," he assured.

Ambassador Brown welcomed the turning over of full security responsibilities to the Government of Liberia, saying, "This is another affirmation of renewed confidence in Liberia's continued progress since the end of its conflict in 2003."

He urged the United Nations and the entire international community to remain engaged with the country as it works to deepen the progress already made.

Receiving Ambassador Brown's credentials, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban, expressed appreciation about Liberia's progress toward consolidating its peace, security and stability, noting that because of the progress already made, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has been able to achieve the final stage of its peacekeeping mission.

He praised the determination of the Liberian people and the farsighted leadership of President Sirleaf toward the achievement of this milestone.

In a related development, the UN Secretary General welcomed the full assumption by the Government of Liberia of its national security responsibilities from the United Nations Mission, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2239(2015).

Mr. Ban paid tribute to the determination of the Government and people of Liberia to work towards lasting peace after the end of the conflict that led to the deployment of UNMIL in October 2003. He urged partners to remain engaged and to continue assisting the Government of Liberia to consolidate peace.

'Climate Change and Its Effects Present Existential Threat to Global Community,' Says Minister Kamara



Foreign Minister Kamara, on behalf of Liberia, signs the Paris Agreement on Climate Change at UN Headquarters, New York.

Foreign Minister Marjon Kamara is warning that unless concrete steps are taken to actualize the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the world stands to suffer its devastating consequences.

She said that while it is equally important to take a critical look at the prospects of financing and development goals, the issue that brought Member States together in New York is essential for all because the issue of climate change concerns the existence of our planet.

The Liberian Foreign Minister, on behalf of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, delivered this statement at the high-level signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 22.

Madam Kamara said there can be no denying that climate change and its effects present an existential threat to the global community, including Africa which is threatened by an ever advancing desert, soil erosion on ocean fronts, as well as unpredictable rainy seasons.

"Ultimately, we are all on the same boat. We both take the difficult steps and make the future of our planet a high global prior-

ity or we put future generations at risk," she indicated, adding, "The one responsibility that we all share as humans is to leave this planet better than we found it."

Minister Kamara, who joined many world leaders in signing the Paris Agreement on behalf of the Government of Liberia, said that signing the binding and universal agreement on this day signified a renewed hope and commitment to pursue a set of policies and strategies aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of climate change. She added, "Liberia has already initiated actions toward the ratification of the Agreement this year."

Citing steps being taken by the Government of Liberia against climate change, Minister Kamara indicated that in 2014 Liberia established a Climate Change Secretariat and developed a national low emission strategy which is being integrated into the country's Agenda for Transformation. This strategy targets reduction in carbon emission, climate agri-

culture production and defense against coastal erosion. According to Minister Kamara, the strategy has an implementation period of five years, with overreaching objectives of achieving the "well below 2 degree Celsius" target.

She further informed world leaders that Liberia has also established a national adaptation program of action for climate change and a national biodiversity strategy and action plan for protection of biodiversity, stressing, "We are working closely with the private sector and civil society, including women and youth groups, to provide education, training and heightening awareness to increase citizens' participation in climate change activities."

While lauding the progress being made by many countries in developing efficient renewable energy, Minister Kamara said the Paris Agreement charts a new path for global partnership to ensure that all nations have a chance of producing and using clean, renewable energy.

She, however, noted that significant increased financial flows and investment are required for the greening of world economies, and therefore called on nations to rise to the challenge by taking urgent and robust actions using the Paris Agreement as an enabling platform.

Addressing world leaders earlier, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that the global community is racing against time and that the era of consumption without consequence was over. "The poor and most vulnerable must not suffer further from a problem they did not create," he urged.

The deal, which ambitiously aims at reducing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, is aimed at limiting global warming, by the year 2100, to "well below 2 degrees Celsius" or (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). The signing was seen as a major step towards the realization of the target goal, with over 175 countries signing on to the document.

Foreign Minister Kamara Commis

Assures of Improving Conditions of Service



Honorees listen attentively as Foreign Minister Kamara proffers a toast.

Foreign Minister Marjon V. Kamara has assured newly commissioned Foreign Service Officers that though there are still challenges to address in the Foreign Service, continuing efforts are under way to improve the Service by reinforcing policies and regulations and improving conditions of service.

Liberia's top diplomat made the assertion when she performed her first commissioning of 11 Foreign Service Officers at the Ministry's C. Cecil Dennis, Jr. Auditorium on May 20, 2016.

She stressed that the Foreign Ministry's three top priorities, till the end of this administration, are:

to transform the Liberia's Foreign Service, improve service delivery to and relations with clients, and effectively operationalize existing bilateral and multilateral agreements for speedy recovery, growth and development; therefore, commissioning qualified and competent Foreign Service

Officers contributed to all three of the Ministry's deliverables.

Minister Kamara indicated that the Foreign Service Officers were commissioned to make their contributions to improving service delivery abroad, positively transforming Liberia's Missions and ensuring the operationalization of existing bilateral and multilateral engagements, with specific focus on economic diplomacy.

She admonished the newly commissioned Officers to serve at their respective Missions with unwaver-

Missions 11 Foreign Service Officers;



ing commitment, integrity, honesty and dignity; cautioned that the task ahead will be challenging, requiring much sacrifice; but trusted that they will make decisions always in the interest of the people of Liberia.

Liberia's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations reminded the commissioned Officers that regardless of their positions, they are all Ambassadors. "As you set foot on foreign soil to commence your duty, your first priority is to endeavor to project a positive image of your country so as to retain the respect which Liberia enjoys in the international arena," she advised, reiterat-

ing that a key responsibility is to ensure that public and development diplomacy is maximized to the fullest in order to improve relations between Liberia and the host country, as well as for the betterment of Liberia and its people.

On individuals visualizing life at posts abroad to be glamorous, Minister Kamara admonished Foreign Service Officers instead to be resilient in the face of current realities and be prepared to make immense sacrifices. She urged them to be mindful that their stay and upward movement in the Service will largely depend on the value addition they bring to the Service.

She reminded would-be Foreign Service Officers that for the Ministry to move steadily in improving the staffing complement of the foreign Missions, administration will begin a merit-based system so that Officers are promoted on the basis of how they perform rather than who they know.

"For too long we have been content with mediocrity and complacency, even when we have not fully achieved our desired objectives," she pointed out, adding that as emissaries of Liberia, it is incumbent to strive unrelentingly for excellence wherever they find themselves, particularly as they interact with colleagues of other countries in the diplomatic service. "It is imperative that each Officer contributes, at his her or her level, to achieving the goals of the Mission," she emphasized.

Responding on behalf of his

colleagues, the newly commissioned Counselor at the Embassy of Liberia in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Charles H.V. Allen Jr., assured that they will endeavor to do their best to realize Government's foreign policy goals and work cooperatively with their respective Heads of Mission.

He asked Foreign Minister Kamara, on behalf of his colleagues, to convey to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf their sincere gratitude for the trust and confidence reposed in them, stressing that they enter upon their new assignments with even greater zeal and fervor to ensure the realization of Government's foreign policy objectives.

Those commissioned included: Mr. Martin Karpeh, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Liberia, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa; Mr. Ali Sylla, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Liberia, Doha, State of Qatar; Mr. Charles H.V. Allen, Jr., Counselor, Embassy of Liberia, Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany; Mrs. Nyanda Finda Davis, Counselor, Embassy of Liberia, Washington, D.C., United States of America; and Mrs. Juah Jenkins Doe, Counselor, Embassy of Liberia, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

Others are: Mr. Jimmy Barchue, Deputy Consul General, Consulate of Liberia, New York, United States of America; Mr. Johnnie F. Fallah, First Secretary/Consul, Embassy of Liberia, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium; Mr. Daniel Rogers, First Secretary/Consul, Embassy of Liberia, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria; Mr. James Holmes, First Secretary/Consul, Embassy of Liberia, Accra, Republic of Ghana; Mr. Burgess T. Nimely, First Secretary/Consul, Embassy of Liberia, Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany; and Ms. Williemen A. Appleton, Second Secretary/Vice Consul, Embassy of Liberia, Berlin Federal Republic of Germany.

Liberia Commends UN Security Sanctions, Formally Dissolves S of Experts



The Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 2288 (2016), lifting sanctions on Liberia. (Photo: Courtesy of the UN)

The Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations has commended the United Nations Security Council for lifting the remaining sanctions and an arms embargo imposed on Liberia during the civil crisis.

Mr. George Patten, speaking following the unanimous vote by members of the Council to terminate sanctions on Liberia imposed through Resolution 1521, said that while there have been numerous debates about the usefulness of sanctions, targeted sanctions in the context of Liberia have been very construc-

ive. He referred to the sanctions regime as having contributed, in large measure, to the stabilization of the country and also stimulated post-conflict economic recovery.

The Chargé d’Affaires informed the Security Council that the Liberian Government, despite capacity constraints, cooperated very effectively with them and remained

constructively engaged with the panel of experts in meeting their expectations which, according to him, provided the Government the opportunity to make the country a safe and stable place for all Liberians as well as foreign residents.

Addressing some of the specific concerns previously raised by the Council, including the enactment of relevant laws to regulate firearms, Mr. Patten pointed out that the 53rd National Legislature recently passed the Fire Arms and Ammunition Control Act of 2015 which pro-

Council as It Terminates Sanctions Committee and Panel

vides the legal framework for the management of arms in the country. He also mentioned the passage of the Police and Immigration Acts, as complements to the Fire Arms and Ammunition Control Act.

Mr. Patten expressed gratitude to the Resolution 1521 Committee, comprising all members of the Council, including the various chairs of the Committee for their support. He also thanked the panel of experts for the numerous visits to Liberia and the sub-region to ensure that the sanctions were implemented.

Mr. Patten said the termination of the sanctions regime will provide further motivation to the Government to strengthen the capacity of national security institutions as they assume their constitutional role of protecting lives and property and safeguarding the territorial integrity of Liberia.

For his part, Mr. David Pressman, the Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the Permanent Mission of the United States, said that the targeted sanctions were crafted in support of the Liberian Peace Agreement. He said the effectiveness of the sanction regime in Liberia was a testament of how progress can be achieved when such measures are taken with a clear purpose and determination to consolidate peace. The US diplomat urged the Liberian Government to work closely with its people to maintain peace and stability, and assured that his Government will continue to support Liberia's post-war reconstruction process.

In separate remarks, the representatives of Japan, China and Ukraine expressed support for the lifting of sanctions and praised

the Government and people of Liberia for their steadfastness during the period. Each assured Liberia of their country's fullest support as Liberia assumes full responsibility of its own security.

On May 25th, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2288 (2016) on Liberia, voting to terminate an arms embargo and dissolve the sanctions committee and panel of experts, and acknowledging the sustained progress Liberia has made after its civil war ended in 2003. In terminating the measures, the 15-nation body also encouraged the Liberian Government to establish a framework to combat the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-

moon also welcomed the end of sanctions on Liberia, calling it another signal of significant progress made by Liberia and the sub-region in maintaining stability. He noted that targeted sanctions measures have accompanied the consolidation of peace and the rebuilding of State institutions in Liberia since 2003, and that these measures have been progressively adjusted as Liberia has met the benchmarks set out by the Council.

The UN first implemented a type of arms embargo for Liberia in 1992. The Security Council last year lifted a travel ban and asset freezes on individuals deemed a danger to Liberia's stability. The United States lifted its own economic sanctions on Liberia last November.



George S. W. Patten, Sr., Chargé d'Affaires a.i., at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the UN addresses the Security Council. (Photo: Courtesy of the UN)

Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin Meets with AU Delegation Here To Domesticate 'Agenda 2063'



Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin (r) and head of the AU delegation, Dr. Jallow, hold discussions during a courtesy call.

A three-member delegation of the African Union (AU) Commission met with Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. B. Elias Shoniyin, on April 21, to begin discussions on the domestication, at the national level, of the organization's "Agenda 2063".

AIMING to encourage discussion among all stakeholders, "Agenda 2063" is an approach to how the Continent should effectively learn from the lessons of the past, build on the progress now under way, and strategically exploit all possible opportunities available in the short, medium and long term, to ensure positive socioeconomic transformation within the next 50 years. Simply put, "Agenda 2063" is "a global strategy to improve use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans".

The three-member delegation was sent by the AU Commission on a technical support mission to Member States. Its discussions with authorities involved a series of

consultative and information gathering activities that culminated in a multi-stakeholders workshop.

"Agenda 2063" sets out clear milestones and targets at national, regional and continental levels, with greater emphasis at the national level; hence the AU wants to ensure that these milestones and targets are embedded in national development plans.

During discussions with the head of the AU delegation, Dr. Ahmad Tijan Jallow, Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin said he was glad that the AU team was in the country to technically help Liberia domesticate "Agenda 2063". He added, "We are glad that you have come to Liberia to help address some of the development issues in

line with the AU's Agenda 2063".

Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin informed Dr. Jallow and his team that Liberia looks forward to aligning all of the AU's development agenda with its national agenda, observing that "Only Africans know what their true problems are". The acting Foreign Minister assured Dr. Jallow of the Ministry's full cooperation in order to ensure his mission's success.

Responding, the head of the AU visiting delegation said "domestication of 'Agenda 2063' at national and regional levels is critical if Africa's transformation is to become a reality". He also called for better and greater solidarity among and between African nations.

The African Union's "Agenda 2063" was adopted at the 24th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015.



Charges d'Affaires a.i. , Mr. George Patten, and Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov.

Liberia Establishes Diplomatic Ties with Kazakhstan and Belarus

Liberia has established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus, with commitments by all sides to promote and strengthen the friendship in all spheres of development as the three countries look forward to improving their interactions at the highest levels.

The countries, in separate communiqués, also undertook to consolidate friendly relations based on mutual respect for national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as non-interference in the internal affairs of one another.

The communiqués further assert that the countries will exert efforts to observe diplomatic protocols, including those of the United Nations Charter, the provisions of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of April 24, 1963, respectively.

Signing on behalf of the Government of Liberia, the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Na-

tions, Mr. George Patten, stressed the importance of establishing relationship between Liberia and the two countries, and urged that further steps be taken to concretize the existing relations for the benefit of the three countries. He pointed out that by establishing these relations, Liberia, Kazakhstan and Belarus are poised to take their diplomatic interactions to a new level, and expressed optimism that the three countries will seize the opportunity to reinforce the spirit of cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral realm.

The Liberian diplomat named education, cultural exchange and agricultural technology as some of the areas that could be explored by the countries concerned. He promised to convey the messag-

es of goodwill expressed by the Representatives of Kazakhstan and Belarus on behalf of their respective Governments to the relevant authorities in Liberia.

In his remarks, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, H.E. Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, said that the establishment of formal diplomatic ties between his country and Liberia paves the way for a new partnership that has come to stay, and he considered this as an historic moment that will be recognized by the Government and people of Kazakhstan. He said that Liberia, being one of the oldest Republics in sub-Saharan Africa, occupies an enviable position with a rich culture and history.

For his part, the Permanent Representative of Belarus, H.E. Andrei Dapkiunas, expressed appreciation and hoped that the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between his country and Liberia opens a new chapter and reinforces the existing cordial ties between the two countries.

Deputy Minister Shoniyin Urges AU Commission Delegation to Reconsider Transferring Liaison Office to Côte d'Ivoire



The Head of Mission, AU Liaison Office in Liberia, Mr. Prosper Addo, introduces the AU Commission delegation to Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin.

Deputy Foreign Minister B. Elias Shoniyin is urging the African Union (AU) Commission to reconsider its decision to relocate its Liaison Office from Monrovia to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

“We think the timing of this decision raises some concern for us because we think the symbolic presence of the African Union Liaison Office in Liberia gives hope not only to Liberians but international partners, in light of the UN Mission’s drawdown and security transition to Liberians,” he said.

Deputy Minister Shoniyin made these remarks when an AU Commission delegation paid him a courtesy call at his Foreign Ministry office on May 10. The Head of Mission at the African Union Liaison Office in Liberia, Mr. Prosper N.N. Addo, accompanied a two-member AU Commission delegation, Mr. Baizebbe Na Pahimi and Mr. Bright Mando, to meet with the Deputy Foreign Minister.

Earlier, Mr. Addo informed Shoniyin that the courtesy call was to give notification to the Liberian Government of the AU Com-

mission’s decision to relocate its Liaison Office from Monrovia to Abidjan. The decision, he stated, was necessitated by the fact that donors supporting the AU Commission have complained about lack of finances which has affected their overall contribution to the Commission. As such, the need has arisen for the adoption of austerity measures at the AU Commission.

Mr. Addo pointed out that the Commission made the decision that it will not close the office in Liberia since there’s a lot to be done here, but will give responsibility to the office in Côte d’Ivoire to remain engaged with Liberia until after the presidential and legislative elections in 2017.

“Should that happen, we will only be a non-resident mission where there will be visits from Côte d’Ivoire to assess the situation and update the Commission as we do for Sierra Leone, which is covered

by the Liberia office,” he explained.

Responding, Mr. Shoniyin stressed that, ordinarily, Liberia would have had no objection to moving the office to a sisterly country; but considering that an extremely important transition in Liberia is in progress, the country will require all of the support needed to make a smooth and seamless transition possible.

He said that Liberia needs the African Union’s presence here now more than any other time, especially as UNMIL transfers security to its Liberian counterparts; that this transition is a big one; and plans are afoot to make every effort to guide this process closely. It was important that they remain for now.

The Deputy Foreign Minister reminded his guests that Liberia does not want to give the impression to the world that it wants to continue to “be pampered”, as that will create an impression of the country’s inability to take on its own responsibility. “We can receive all the international support, all of the international goodwill; but, ultimately, the responsibility for our country remains ours,” he emphasized, adding that the international community can only come to buttress what we’re doing. He said this matter does not only have to do with representation, but also symbolism.

He recognized and praised the significant role the AU has played in Liberia’s recovery process, and also in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease in the three Mano River Union countries worse affected. “If we choose to enumerate all of the support that the AU has given Liberia in the past years, we will go on and on and on,” he said.

Deputy Minister Shoniyin assured the delegation that Liberia will transmit its opinion to the AU Commission for consideration.



Mr. Sakib Rahman (l) presents Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin a portion of the items as his associate, Mr. Thakur, looks on.

Foreign Ministry Receives Items Valued at US\$70,000 from Bangladeshi Business Delegation

A two-man Bangladeshi business delegation has donated needed items, valued at US\$70,000, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The items presented included one mini-bus, four motorbikes with accessories, one modern printing machine and 15 pieces of video conference units.

The Managing Director/CEO of the Agrani Holdings Group Limited, Mr. Sakib M. Rahman, and his associate, Mr. R. B. Thakur, on a visit to Liberia to explore business opportunities for their company, said they saw the need within the Ministry and decided to make the donation.

Before presenting the items to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. B. Elias Shoniyin, Mr. Rahman said that they had held separate investment discussions with authorities of various Liberian Government Ministries and other institutions, which he termed encouraging.

Responding, Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin thanked the delegation for the donation. He pointed their attention toward the vast "untapped" opportunity in the nation's fisheries sector, and urged the team to encourage other entrepreneurs to venture into furniture or biofuel business if they can't do it themselves.



Deputy Foreign Minister Shoniyin holds discussion with the Bangladeshi business delegation.

Liberia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam Establish Diplomatic Relations



Liberia's Ambassador Thomas and Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Vu sign on behalf of their respective Governments.

The Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have established diplomatic relations at the Ambassadorial level. The Joint Communiqué was signed at a formal ceremony held at the Government's Guest House in Hanoi, on June 28.

Liberia's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Mr. Dudley McKinley Thomas signed the Communiqué on behalf of the Government of Liberia, while the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr. Vu Hong Nam, signed on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vice Foreign Minister Vu stressed that Vietnam was very pleased to establish diplomatic relations with Liberia, Africa's oldest independent republic, making it the 52nd African country with which Vietnam has established diplomatic relations and the 172nd worldwide.

He indicated that Vietnam current exports to Liberia has a yearly turn-over of US\$100 million and therefore believed that the potential for the two countries to expand their bilateral co-

operation was clearly evident.

Vice Foreign Minister Vu furthered that his country is prepared to provide assistance to Liberia in the field of agriculture, and specifically in the production of rice, since Vietnam is the second largest producer of rice in the world.

The Vice Minister assured that his Government will fully cooperate and collaborate with Liberia in advancing the many current international priorities, made all the more urgent, by increased globalization and economic integration and praised the role played by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, as one three co-chairs of the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Agenda.

Responding, Ambassador Thomas stated that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Liberia and Vietnam, even though an

important event, should however be viewed as the renewal of an old friendship - a friendship which has existed for many years between the people of Vietnam and the people of Liberia. He said the friendship also draws its strength from the strong bonds established by the many contributions of Vietnamese agriculturists, technicians and others that participated in the development of Liberia in previous years.

Ambassador Thomas fully agreed with Vice Foreign Minister Vu that the formalization of the relationship between the two countries as presenting new opportunities for increased cooperation in various fields. "We have followed with admiration the rapid economic development of Vietnam after facing many difficulties and believe that Liberia can learn from your experience," the Liberian Ambassador to China said.

He happily noted that agreements for the provision of assistance in the field of agriculture between Vietnam and Liberia, especially ones that provide for enhancing Liberia's rice production capabilities, would be wholeheartedly embraced by the Government and people of Liberia.

"Rice," he pointed out, "is a major component of the Liberia's diet and therefore, new Liberia-Vietnam relations, based on a platform of extensive agriculture cooperation, would indeed go a long way in promoting sustainable 'economic development' and win-win for both countries."

Ambassador Thomas requested that the Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister kindly convey to the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, H.E. Mr. Tran Dai Quang the best wishes of the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, for the continuing success and prosperity of the Vietnamese people.

President Sirleaf Describes Outgoing Nigerian Ambassador as 'Daughter of Africa'

Admitted into Order of the Star of Africa

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has described the former Nigerian Ambassador, H.E. Chief Chigozie F. Obi-Nnadozie, as an "Astute Diplomat and Daughter of Africa" for her exceptional work during her tour of duty in Liberia.

"When a diplomat who had been accredited to Liberia is departing the country after his/her tour of duty comes to an end, the government pays special attention to the role played in cementing ties with Liberia," the Liberian leader said, adding, "We have gathered to bid farewell to an astute diplomat and a daughter of Africa, Her Excellency Madam Chigozie F. Obi-Nnadozie, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who has imparted in a most positive manner relations between Liberia and Nigeria."

The Liberian Chief Executive made the remarks at a farewell reception and Investiture Ceremony hosted in honor of Ambassador Obi-Nnadozie at the C. Cecil Dennis, Jr. Auditorium on January 14. The President stressed that Liberia remains grateful to her for upping the excellent bilateral ties, including trade cooperation, between the two countries and for the role Ni-



President Sirleaf and Ambassador Obi-Nnadozie share a light moment after the latter was admitted into the Order of the Star of Africa.

geria played in the fight against the deadly Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia. She thanked the Ambassador and the people of Nigeria for their demonstration of brotherly African solidarity extended to Liberia.

Highlighting some of Ambassador Obi-Nnadozie's achievements during her tenure, the Liberian leader cited the long-standing friendly ties between the two countries which have enabled successful technical and economic

cooperation in the areas of mining, geology, agriculture, education, health and mobilizing resources, among others – all geared towards enhancing and accelerating Liberia's recovery process.

President Sirleaf also pointed to Nigeria's assistance in providing US\$2 million and the deployment of 200 medical practitioners to help combat the Ebola disease, the training of Liberian Foreign Service Officers, as well as education efforts, which have made an impact in human capacity building for Liberia.

As Grand Master of the Order of Distinction, President Sirleaf admitted Ambassador Obi-Nnadozie into the Order of the Star of Africa with the Grade of Commander.

Earlier, Ambassador Obi-Nnadozie was gowned and named Paramount Chief Lango Lappaye for her outstanding contributions during her tour of duty in the Liberia. Per-

forming the gowning ceremony, the Acting Minister of Internal Affairs, Stephen Neufville, praised her many contributions to Liberia.

For her part, Ambassador Obi-Nnadozie said she was delighted over the warm reception and cooperation as well as hospitality accorded her by President Sirleaf, the Government and people of Liberia over the past three years.

Fallen Liberian Diplomat, Rudolf P. von Ballmoos, Laid to Rest



The remains of Ambassador von Ballmoos being interred at the Kaizer Memorial Cemetary in Brewerville.

The Government has described the late Liberian Ambassador, Rudolf P. von Ballmoos, as a credible servant and one of the country's outstanding and foremost diplomats.

"He served his country diligently with integrity, honesty and commitment to the call of duty to the nation," said Acting Foreign Minister, B. Elias Shoniyin, who paid tribute on behalf of the Government; referring to von Ballmoos as one of Liberia's new breed of diplomats and one of the first fruits trained in the new speck of global diplomacy.

The late Ambassador von Ballmoos (56) began his public service career as a cadet in the Department of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 1979-1982. Thereafter, he served in many capacities, including as Ambassador to Ghana during the period of conflict spanning about nine years, before being assigned as Ambassador to the Court of St. James and Northern Ireland with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Ireland, the Holy See and the

Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf led an array of senior former and current officials, including Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, members of the Legislature, Justices of the Supreme Court and members of the Judiciary, members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, among others, in attendance at the

President Sirleaf sympathizes with the bereaved family.



funeral service which was held at the First United Methodist Church on Ashmun Street on January 9, 2016.

Delivering the funeral discourse, the Senior Pastor of the First United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Erlene P. Thompson, described the late Ambassador as a humble servant who impacted the diplomatic environment meaningfully, offering his time, life and services to the advancement of God's work. Speaking on the theme "When the Clock Strikes", Rev. Thompson said the clock has the propensity to strike at any time, and admonished members of the bereaved family and other mourners to get closer to God.

Rev. Thompson reminded Liberians and those in leadership that they are called to serve humanity and should do so with commitment and enthusiasm, as well as to show concern to their churches as was the case with the fallen diplomat.

The Liberian Government, in a National Gazette, paid homage to the fallen Ambassador for his contribution in strengthening diplomacy around the globe and for working tirelessly to uplift his country.

Ambassador von Ballmoos, who passed away at the Epsom General Hospital in Surrey, London, was laid to rest at the Kaizer Memorial Cemetary in Brewerville, outside of Monrovia.

Liberia Bids Farewell to Former Chief of Protocol, Rt. Rev. J. Adolphus During



Rt. Rev. J. Adolphus During lying in state.

Liberia has lost another astute diplomat, prelate and Ebola Prayer Warrior in person of the Rt. Rev. J. Adolphus During. Dr. During, who was also Senior Pastor and Co-Founder of the Soul Cleansing Clinic of Jesus Christ and Chief of Protocol, Republic of Liberia, died on December 28, 2015, at the Aspen Medical Clinic on 16th Street, in Sinkor, after a brief illness. He was 72 years old.

Ambassador During, as he was commonly called, joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1974 as Deputy Chief of Protocol, having received his basic diplomatic training at the Foreign Service Institute at the then Department of State, where he earned a Certificate of Achievement. He then matriculated to the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands, where he obtained a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and Development in 1978. He was elevated to Chief of Protocol, R.L., with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in 1980, and served in that capacity until June 1990 following the outbreak of Liberia's civil war.

When, in July 1997, a constitutional government was democratically elected, the President-elect, Charles G. Taylor, invited Ambassador During to serve a second time as Chief of Protocol, and he became the chief liaison between the Government of Liberia and the foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Liberia and traveled extensively throughout Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Prior to his transfer to the Foreign Ministry, Mr. During had worked in the Internal Revenue Service as Junior Inspector, Senior Inspector, Director of Sales and Excise Tax, and Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenues for Income Tax.

Ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1979, Rev. During in Janu-

ary 1993 enrolled at the Universal Theological School of Ministry in Brooklyn, New York, an affiliate of the International Theological Seminary of California, where he took a Master's in Theology, with a major in Christian Education. He was later awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Christian Education at the Shalom Bible College and Seminary in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

After faithfully serving as a shepherd, steward, elder and watchman of the Soul Cleansing Clinic, Rev. Dr. During was, in his twentieth year of pastoral ministry, consecrated Bishop on November 18, 2007, at the church's headquarters in Chocolate City, Gardnersville, a suburb of Monrovia.

In recent years, Bishop During started the Liberia Institute of Protocol and Etiquette to train Liberians in how to behave in public and in private. Many people from various professions, including judicial and military personnel and budding diplomats, benefitted from this vital training.

When the Ebola crisis hit the country in 2014, the Liberian Council of Churches, headed by Bishop Jonathan B.B. Hart, convened prayer services every Friday at the nation's oldest church edifice, the Old Providence Baptist Church on Broad Street, Monrovia, to pray that God would deliver the nation from the deadly virus. Bishop During coordinated these prayer meetings and, thankfully, Liberia, though the hardest hit, became the first of the three affected Mano River Union countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) to defeat the virus.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. During was interred at his residence, following funeral rites over his remains on January 23, 2016.

