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PEACE & SECURITY DEPARTMENT
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT DIVISION

REPORT OF THE MULTIDICLIPINARY TEAM OF EXPERTS' MISSION TO
LIBERIA, 9 – 20 FEBRUARY 2009

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In submitting the attached Report, the 20 member Multidisciplinary Team which we were indeed privileged to lead to Sierra Leone and Liberia from 2 to 22 February 2009 wishes to register from the outset, its deep appreciation for the trust our continental institution first placed in us in requesting us to proceed to these two war-affected countries with a view to assessing their needs and coming up with concrete measures whereby the AU could support their post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts.

That the task, however daunting and complex, could have been carried out unimpeded within the time period we were assigned, we surely owe it to the vision, the open-mindedness and the determination of the able leadership of the two countries whose concrete, albeit discreet, support never failed the Mission throughout its stay in the sub-region. We have been particularly sensitive to the honour they extended to the Team by receiving it in audience and sharing with it their own vision and wisdom, the pertinence of which could hardly be overemphasized. May they kindly accept once again, the heartfelt expression of our gratitude.

Our thanks also go to the members of the two cabinets and their collaborators at all levels who never spared their time and professional knowledge to provide the Team with all the information and documentation it required. The same goes for the members of the civil society organisations (CSOs), members of the opposition political parties and representatives of the international community, whose open and honest insights, based on their close observations of the local scene, proved of invaluable assistance to the Mission. We hereby wish to assure them that their views and advice would be faithfully reflected in the Mission's findings. Let them all be thanked again for their constructive contributions.

In closing, the Head of the Team further wishes to put on record his particular appreciation for the professional approach as well as the hard work displayed by the members of the team as a whole. Their staunch and solid commitment to the cause was central to the success of the Mission.

It is the Team's earnest hope that their efforts will be given the concrete and robust follow up that it deserves if the credibility and good reputation of our institution should be up held in this sub-region. In this vein, the AU Commission may consider the possibility of setting up an *ad hoc* mechanism to ensure the monitoring and implementation of the recommendations made in collaboration with the Governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union (MRU). The African Union Liaison Office in Liberia (AULOL) must also be strengthened, both in terms of its human resource capacity and logistics, to oversee the implementation of the AU's Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) programmes in both countries.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2003 Liberia emerged from fourteen years of civil war, which caused the deaths of more than 200,000 people; destroyed the fragile economy and environment; damaged the country's infrastructure; and displaced more than one million people as internally displaced persons and more than 800,000 people as

refugees in various parts of the world. The war also led to a total state and societal collapse. After long years of war, the stakeholders in the conflict signed the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 18 August 2003 in Ghana. The signing of the Peace Agreement substantially altered the political landscape of the country. It created an enabling environment for the elections of 2005 that brought the government of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to power.

2. The Government of Liberia has embarked upon the complex and politically sensitive process of post-war reconstruction and peacebuilding. Since assuming office, the new Administration has made efforts geared towards addressing the enormous socio-economic, political and security legacies bequeathed by fourteen years of war. The Government has initiated security sector reforms in order to make the country's security architecture respond adequately to the security needs of the country. For example, a new army has been formed and more than 3000 police officers have been deployed to provide security throughout the country. The Government has also established specialised agencies to address specific issues such as the Governance Commission, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission and it has plans to establish a Law Reform Commission and Land Reform Commission.

3. As part of the overall post-war reconstruction and peacebuilding processes, the government has adopted a poverty reduction strategy that covers four inter-related and inter-linked areas, namely security, governance and rule of law, economic recovery, and infrastructure and basic services.

4. While these efforts are laudable, addressing the legacies of fourteen years of war remains a major challenge. The country is characterised by pervasive poverty, increasing armed robbery and other forms of crimes, inadequate health and educational facilities, contracted economy, high youth unemployment, and poor and inadequate infrastructure, particularly the roads.

5. External actors continue to play a significant role in addressing some of these challenges but with time, donor assistance may decline. Therefore, there are concerns about sustainability after the decline of donor assistance to the country. While external actors will continue to play a role in the post-war reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts of Liberia, efforts should also be made to ensure that the country shoulders the responsibility of national renewal. The role of the African Union is critical in this regard.

6. Conscious of the increasing difficulties and challenges facing the country and the need to ensure that it does not relapse into armed violence, the AU despatched a multi-disciplinary team of experts to Liberia from 8 to 20 February 2009 with the mandate to conduct an assessment of the post-conflict situation in the country and come up with concrete recommendations on the nature of assistance that the AU and its member states could provide to the country within the framework of the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD).

7. Over and above the in-house expertise of the Institution represented on the team by senior staff of its Headquarters relevant Departments, the AU Team was made up of Experts from the ECOWAS, the NEPAD, the AfDB and the UNECA alongside Representatives of such interested African countries as Nigeria and Ghana, the past solid involvement and substantial contribution of which are public knowledge. It was further complemented on the ground by Ambassador Noumou Diakite, the Monrovia-based AU liaison Representative for Sierra-Leone and Liberia

.The high-level Mission was led by Ambassador Dr. ATTALLA Hamad Bashir, former Executive Secretary of IGAD, with Mr. PETERS Albert-Alain, former Geneva-based Director of the UNHCR Africa Bureau, as Deputy Head of the team.

METHODOLOGY

8. For the purpose of the assessment, the team organized itself into clusters based upon the various issue areas identified in its terms of reference namely Security, Governance and rule of law, the Judiciary, and socio-economic issues. The socio-economic cluster covered issues such as youth unemployment, health, education, livestock production and agricultural extension services. As cross-cutting issues, Gender and civil society were expected to fall under all individual clusters' agenda and be given as such the special attention they deserved accordingly; conscious effort was made to ensure that the specific groups dealing with gender issues were consulted in the country by the member of the team most conversant with that issue.

9. In their approach to the problem, the Multi-disciplinary expert team held extensive discussions with a cross section of the Liberian society from a wide range of professional, social and political backgrounds. It further consulted high state officials including the President, the Vice President, Members of the Cabinet, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Judiciary, the Heads of the key National Commissions such as the Governance Commission (GC), the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), Members of the Opposition parties etc...

10. The ECOWAS Mission to Liberia, the UNMIL, the Local Representatives of the UN Security Council as well as other local Representatives of the donor community, and civil society organisations (*See list of people consulted in Appendix ii*) are among the stakeholders the team also consulted in the course of its assessment. Finally, the team made an extensive use of whatever literature or reports were available on the situation in Liberia at the time of its visit. These included annual reports, the poverty reduction strategy paper, donor reports and others (*See list of documents in Appendix iii*).

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

11. This report is divided into six parts including the introduction and specific reports on the Security Sector, the Governance and Rule of Law, the Judiciary, the Socio-Economic issues and a general conclusion. Each of the specific reports contains an overview, key findings, observations and conclusions as well as recommendations broken down into short, medium, and long-term recommendations for action, be it by the AU Commission, by its member states or by other stakeholders

II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

i. Security Sector

a. Overview

12. The overall security situation in Liberia remained relatively stable, but continued to be extremely fragile owing to weak national security institutions. Indeed, the achievement of a steady state of security in this war ravaged country depends both on the level of security risks and national capacity to handle possible fallouts.

There continues to be a sustained prevalence of law and order incidents, including armed robbery, mob violence, rape and attacks on on-duty Liberian National Police Officers. Tensions between ethnic or regional groups are often linked to disputes over access to resources. In that respect, the high number of unemployed or unemployed youth remains a particular challenge, since they constitute a volatile group that could be manipulated by anyone seeking to undermine stability. The limited capacity of the National authorities to control the sea and land borders leaves the country vulnerable to international organized crime networks.

13. While relatively calm, the situation along the borders of Liberia remains unpredictable. The military coup that followed the death of President Lansana Conté in December 2008 largely contributed to the uncertainty of the security environment in Liberia owing to the long-standing cross-border relationship and ethnic affinities between the peoples of the two countries, which had played a significant role during the Liberian civil conflict. In the same vein, the ever postponed elections in Côte d'Ivoire coupled with the limited progress in the Ivorian disarmament process including the dismantling of the militia in the West of that country; also exacerbate the fragile situation in the region. As a result of an increase of unsubstantiated reports in the Liberian media about armed groups crossing the border from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, creating serious concern among Liberian security agencies and public anxiety, a joint assessment by the UNOCI, UNMIL and the UNDP recently concluded that approximately 1'500 to 2000 Liberian ex-combatants remain in Côte d'Ivoire near the Liberian border and need to be closely monitored.

14. Since assuming power in 2006, the new Administration of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has made Security one of the four key areas of concern along with economic recovery, rule of law and infrastructure and basic services. The government has embarked upon a major security sector reform (SSR) geared towards professionalizing and rationalizing the agencies that form the backbone of the national security architecture. The new Administration inherited a bloated, unprofessional, poorly trained and factionalised security sector. In addition, it suffered from defective security sector governance. The SSR process remains a major challenge for the government. With the support of external actors the government has formed a new army, and provided training to 3500 police who have been deployed throughout the country.

15. As part of the rationalisation process, the government has plans to repeal the Acts that established security agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and National Bureau of Investigations (NBI) and transfer their duties and responsibilities to the Liberia National Police.

16. Armed robbery is on the increase but the overall security situation in the country remains calm. The country depends largely on UNMIL for security. There are fears that when it draws down, there could be a security void in the country. In order to avert such a situation, the government and its partners are developing a sector-wide security implementation plan. This will be Liberian led and owned.

17. At the regional level, intra-state conflicts, transnational crimes and small arms proliferation have been of major concern to the country.

18. The AU has played a critical role in the efforts that led to the Accra Peace Agreement of 2003. In order to enhance its role in the country, the AU has appointed an Ambassador as its Special Envoy with a Liaison Office in Monrovia.

b. Key Findings

19. With the support of external actors like UNMIL, the government has trained about 3500 police officers, out of which 13% are female officers. There are indications that the 3500 personnel are insufficient to stabilize the security situation in the country because they are not adequately trained, armed or provided with crowd control equipment to combat robbery and carry out other internal security duties.

20. The new army has a total strength of 2,057, of which 3.5% are female. The training process of the army has been led by the US government, which contracted the private security company, DynCorp and Pacific Architects Engineers (PAE) to train the army. Other countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, and the People's Republic of China, Benin, Sierra Leone, Great Britain and Rwanda have supported this process in the areas of capacity building for officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted personnel. While the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has currently no air force nor navy, plans underway for a Coast Guard to be established in order to patrol the territorial waters of the country.

21. Although the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) has benefited from the SSR process, its work is hampered by a number of problems. It has serious logistical and infrastructure problems. With a total strength of 3500 personnel, it has plans to deactivate 1170. It needs support to re-write the country's 'Aliens and Nationality Law', which is obsolete. Like the BIN, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) also has logistical and infrastructural problems. There are 210 personnel 22 of whom are female officers. Its personnel also require training but the DEA is threatened by the rationalisation process under the SSR programme. In keeping with this, the functions of the DEA are scheduled be transferred to the LNP. Likewise, the National Fire Service faces logistical and infrastructure problems as illustrated by the fact that there are only 2 operational fire engines which obviously are grossly inadequate for Monrovia let alone for the entire country. There are about 445 officers out of whom 175 are female but about three quarters of the personnel are not trained.

22. The Bureau of Rehabilitation/Correction constitutes the prison service in the country. It has not benefited from the on-going restructuring process under the SSR programme. Nevertheless, it has received support from UNMIL and the WFP. It has a total strength of about 210 personnel 33% of whom are female. The Bureau manages 13 prisons located in 12 of the country's 15 political sub-divisions. The prisons are overcrowded to the extent that the central prison which was built for 300 inmates now houses 900 inmates.

23. The Bureau of Customs and Excise is under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance. Like other agencies, its infrastructure was badly damaged by the war; it has insufficient trained manpower, inadequate logistics. It has generated revenue over the past three years and therefore contributes immensely to the post-war reconstruction process in the country. For example, it generates 54% of the government's revenue. The total strength of the Bureau is 298 personnel 30% of whom are female.

c. Observations and Conclusions

24. The security situation in the country has improved but the country continues to rely on UNMIL for security. The training of the new army and the police is a major

step in the right direction but other agencies within the national security architecture require comparable attention in order for the security sector reform process to become comprehensive. For example, the agencies in charge of the border security and management are in need of adequate logistics and infrastructure in order to man the porous borders of the country. The need to establish a Coast Guard cannot be over-emphasised because it could help generate revenue for the development of the country.

25. In the UNMIL latest report to the Security Council, the Resident SRSR called the attention of the august body to the fact that while the security situation of the country may look fairly stable, the situation had not improved dramatically since their September 2008 report: Not only have the long awaited elections not taken place in Côte d'Ivoire, but there has been a military coup in Guinea, which may become another serious source of concern for the stability and the security of the whole sub-region assuming the border of Sierra Leone, the other Liberian neighbour, remains quiet.

26. A greater challenge would appear to loom on the domestic front: Indeed with a freshly trained and unarmed Police force of only 3500, the Liberian Police can hardly be considered as having reached a level of sustained operational effectiveness and as such, being capable of independently ensuring public safety and security. This is borne out by the fact that it still requires support from UNMIL police advisers and formed police units to carry out even routine patrolling. It follows that the UN may have underestimated the time and the level of resources needed to assist the Liberian Police before UNMIL pulls out. Not unrelated to the above is the challenge as to how to change the poor image of the Liberian police and increase its credibility with the population.

27. As spelt out in the January 2008 issue of the NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA (NSSRL) other domestic threats to security in Liberia today include:

- Lack of respect for Rule of Law: this remains a major threat to Liberia's human and economic security.
- Poverty and unemployment: To the extent that economic growth enhances the country's capacity to withstand other internal and external security threats, the fact that close to 85% of Liberia's youth should be unemployed and illiterate as is the case today is a major time bomb that could hardly be ignored.
- Deactivated Ex-Servicemen: the issue of ex servicemen presents a potentially serious security dilemma .The society can ill afford to have such a group be left idle for too long.
- Ex-combatants: While the completion of DDRR in 2004 left 103,019 ex fighters demobilized, about 9000 others are reported not to have benefited from the Rehabilitation and Reintegration phase of the Programme. Some of them may have found their way to Cote d'Ivoire where they are said to be at large. They present a continuing internal and regional security threat to their home country.

- Corruption constitutes a major threat to security as it impacts on development. While the Legislature passed an Anti-Corruption Act that led to the establishment of a Liberia Anti Corruption Commission, it has yet to become fully operational and key supporting legislative bills remain to be enacted, including the Public Service Code of Conduct.
- The continued delay by the Legislature in adopting the draft Land Commission Act expected to address conflicts over land ownership is another concern given the contentious nature of most land disputes many of which have led to violent confrontations between opposing groups and communities.

28. The Government, with the United Nations support, continues to implement the national plan of action on gender-based violence. Liberia submitted its first report on the Convention on the elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women. Meanwhile considerable progress has been made in respect of gender mainstreaming in the security sector, particularly in the ranks of the LNP and the BIN.

d. *Recommendations*

Short Term

- The AU and its Member States to assist in the manpower development in the security sector of Liberia.
- The AU to advocate for training slots for Liberian nationals in relevant institutions of other Member States.
- The AU to advocate for Administrative / Operational vehicles as well as fire engines to be made available to the country.
- Provision of office equipments (especially computers) and modern communication equipments.
- Provide funds estimated at \$1,521,000.00 to enable the Bureau of Immigration to embark on its deactivation process.
- Provision of facilities for the existing Gender Cells within the security sector.
- Provide the LNP with fire arms and internal security equipment in order to enable it effectively to combat armed robberies and effect crowd control.
- The AU to advocate for the provision of Patrol boats for the coastal surveillance operations.
- The AU to advocate for the provision of infrastructure (tentages) for border posts
- The AU to advocate for the provision of Forensic Laboratories for the Bureau of Immigration and the LNP.

ii. Governance and Rule of Law

a. *Overview*

30. The issue of governance is central to the challenges facing Liberia today. Over the past two decades, almost every aspect of governance has suffered. Every institution in the country has been affected by governance challenges. Therefore, the new Administration has taken steps aimed at promoting new democratic culture, and the appropriate institutions that will contribute to ensuring good governance and rule of law. It has developed policies that encourage and promote inclusiveness, transparency, effective mass participation, and devolution of power to the people. The level of multi-party political system in the country is encouraging and commendable. One of the manifestations of its commitment to democratic governance culture is the establishment of the Governance Commission, which is mandated to review policies, laws and government institutions and to address the many significant structural problems that contribute to poor governance.

31. Furthermore, the Government has established the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), which has the power to investigate and prosecute officials engaged in corrupt acts. It has also strengthened the role of the General Auditing Commission; it has strengthened the capacity of the National Election Commission to support sub-national elections.

32. Nevertheless, the government continues to face serious challenges in the area of governance and rule of law. For example, although a Land Bill is in place, the Government has not established a Land Commission to address issues surrounding land use and ownership, which constitute a potential source of violent conflict. National elections are due in 2011 but no amendment has been made to certain provisions of the Constitution of Liberia, such as Article 83 (b) which calls for absolute majority to decide all public elections. Likewise, the NEC has submitted six (6) bills to the Legislature for its action including the need to set a new population threshold. Until now, these crucial electoral bills have not been enacted into Law. This continues to impede the work of the Commission and if they are not passed, they might undermine the credibility of the forthcoming elections in 2011.

33. The enactment of the legislation can facilitate the promotion of competitive and participatory multiparty system which is a requirement for the maintenance of peace, promotion reconciliation and nation building through deepening democratic governance principles.

b. *Key Findings*

34. One of the commendable efforts of the Liberian Government is its commitment to the truth and reconciliation process. Although an outcome of the Accra Peace process and the subsequent TRC Act of 2005, the new Administration has shown commitment towards its work and contribution to the peacebuilding process. Among others, the TRC has two programme areas: i) Archiving and documentation, and ii) the production of the TRC Final Report. The TRC hearings have generated public debates and interests, and the report writing process is underway. Despite the efforts made thus far, the TRC faces challenges. For example, it does not have enough capacity to store its data; and it has financial constraints.

35. An Anti-corruption Commission has been established with the overall objective of investigating and prosecuting cases of corruption as well as educating the public on the effects of corruption and benefits associated with its eradication.
36. Corruption in Liberia continues to be a real number one threat to a fragile and embryonic democracy and continues to impede good governance and economic development of the country.
37. Increasingly, the NEC has continued its training program for its staff as well as other stakeholders, including political parties and civil society organizations. It has organized international training programs for some executives and staff of the Commission in Morocco, Sierra Leone, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Ghana and the United States.
38. The Special Joint Stakeholders Collaborative Committee (SJSCC) submitted its report covering consultations with national and local leaders on the verification of boundaries of cities, chiefdoms, clans and zones (amalgamated towns) in order to harmonize the boundaries for election purposes.
39. The Government has developed a gender policy and an implementation strategy, including the creation of a national gender forum, to guide it and other stakeholders on gender initiatives. Such efforts could encourage and promote the participation of women in leadership and decision making, which remains low with only 14 percent representation in the Legislature. The Government has developed a National Gender Based Violence (GBV) Plan of Action, and established a GBV secretariat within the Ministry of Gender and Development (MoGD). Liberia passed a Rape Law in 2005 which explicitly specifies that rape is a criminal act. The Inheritance Act was also passed to govern the devolution of estates and establish rights of inheritance for spouses of both statutory and customary marriages. While some efforts have been made to encourage civil society participation in governance their inclusion in consultation remains limited. They also urge that the government should do more to decentralize political and administrative powers to the lower strata of the society.
40. A Governance Commission (GC) has been established and has been working in four broad areas of reform, namely public integrity and public sector, political and legal, and security sector reform. It was through its work that the Anti-Corruption Commission has been established, and a national security strategy has been launched by the Government. Nevertheless, it faces financial constraints and therefore requires support in this area. In addition, more should be done to ensure that the reform initiatives presented to Legislature are adequately addressed and enacted in order to facilitate the governance dispensation and rule of law.
41. Unlike in the past when the country was governed under single party for more than a century, presently there is a multi-party system. For the first time in its history, the ruling party does not have a majority in the Legislature. In order to ensure democratic governance, there is the need to promote the new culture of political pluralism.

c. *Observations and Conclusions*

42. In the light of the above, it is clear that progress has been made in Liberia in relation to the promotion of democratic governance and rule of law. Nonetheless, there remain enormous challenges in order to restore effective democratic

governance throughout the country. Without doubt, if the efforts towards the decentralization of power, decision-making and government authority are realized, there will be an improvement in strengthening good governance in the country. This will contribute to increase in transparency, enhanced accountability, and ultimately in the effective delivery of services and fulfilment of the government's move towards democratic governance and reduction of poverty.

43. Combating corruption is essential to restoring public confidence in the Government and there should be increased civil society involvement and participation in the debates on public sector reform and the overall national conversation on good governance and the rule of law.

d. *Recommendations*

Short Term

44. Advocate for or support the establishments of documentation centre for the TRC and ensure that staff acquires the appropriate expertise to run the centre.

45. With regard to the TRC, the Mission is of the view that AU and Member States provide support in the following:

- Compilation of AU/Liberia Joint program of Action to organize and mobilize the necessary resources to successfully hold the now scheduled June 2009 TRC Commission Final Report for the National Conference.
- Advocate for the provision of technical expertise to provide training to staff of the LACC in White Collar crime investigations.
- Encourage the Legislature to pass the bills presently put before it such as the Liberian Public Servants Code of Conduct, Whistle blowers Bill, Freedom of Information Bill and Corrupt offences Bill to ensure the Commission's efficiency and effectiveness.
- Support the NEC with IT equipment to support the electoral process including monitoring and tabulation.
- AU can encourage Liberia to implement the principle of 30% of women's representation through the AU Constitutive Act (Art 4) on Gender parity. The Pan African Parliament could also support the Liberian Parliament for the implementation of the Fairness Bill by sharing best practises of member states.

Medium term

- Advocacy for the establishment of a crime laboratory for the LACC.
- Support NEC with knowledge and experience in boundary delimitation skills.
- Support the efforts of UN agencies for the implementation of the Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security.
- Encourage the improvement of the quality and integrity of the media sector so that it plays a critical role in promoting accountability, transparency and sharing information with citizens across Liberia.

- Encourage the Legislature to pass several important pieces of legislation to strengthen the public's access to information and to support reform within the media sector, including the Freedom of Information Act, Broadcasting Regulations, and the National Public Broadcasting Service Act.
- Advocate for financial support to the Governance Commission in order to strengthen its capacity to put forward policies for governance reform in the country.
- Encourage the Government to ensure that Liberia accedes to the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) mechanism.
- Encourage good working relationship between the legislators and the political parties.

iii. The Judiciary

a. *Overview*

46. Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court and other subordinate courts that the Legislature may establish when deemed necessary. The Supreme Court is comprised of the Chief Justice and four Associate Justices. The court makes final decisions on constitutional issues. Out of the five Judges, there are two women. There are other subordinate courts including the following: Circuit Courts led by Circuit Court Judges, Magistrates Court led by Stipendiary Magistrates and two associate Magistrates, and Justices of the Peace Courts headed by Justices of the Peace. Currently, the Justices of the Peace Courts do not operate. There are also traditional and lay courts in the rural areas.

47. The legal system of the country is based on 'Anglo-American Common Law' and customary laws. The latter is based on customary practices of the indigenous people. By law, the Judges of both the Supreme and Circuit are required to be qualified lawyers that are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

48. The Judiciary is independent of the two other branches of Government, namely, the Legislature and the Executive. Judges of the Supreme Court enjoy a secure tenure of service. They are appointed for life but can be removed for bad behaviour, or when they either retire at the age of 70 years or by resignation. During the tenure of the current Supreme Court bench, they have rendered judgements against the Executive Branch. The Financial Autonomy Act empowers the Judiciary to control its own budget but it can be audited like other public institutions in the country. From the above it is clear that the Judiciary enjoys considerable independence in the country.

b. *Key Findings*

49. The Judiciary has been engulfed by a number of problems in four key areas: infrastructure, human resource, finance, and training. The problem of inadequate infrastructure remains a major challenge for The Judiciary. Throughout the country, there are limited courts to the extent that cases are judged from verandas; in palaver huts; and in some cases under the Tree. Some floors of the Temple of Justice, where the Supreme Court and other subordinate courts are operated, need

renovation. Similarly, the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law requires expansion in order to cope with the growing student population.

50. Access to Justice is facilitated by the number of Judges and Magisterial Courts in the country. A Magistrate Court has also been established in central prison in Monrovia to investigate cases. This decision was reached in order to address the challenges of long term prisons without trial. There are more than 350 Magistrates in the country. Only 10 of the 350 Magistrates are trained lawyers. Almost 90% of lawyers are based in Monrovia and so there are inadequate lawyers outside the capital. This presents a real challenge for the delivery of justice throughout the country.

51. In the rural areas, traditional courts presided over by Chiefs continue to play a critical role in the delivery of justice. Appeals from these courts usually go to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. However when their rulings do not conform to the Constitution, such rulings can be nullified by the statutory court. This means that they are subordinate to the statutory courts. In the urban areas, particularly in Monrovia, there are tribal governors that adjudicate cases involving marital unfaithfulness.

52. The law school continues to provide a major source for lawyers in the country. The number of students enrolling at the school has increased substantially. Last year the school admitted 103 students but the building is not adequate to accommodate both the students and staff. There is about 26 staff in the school including the current Chief Justice, an Associate Justice and others who has served in senior positions in the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary. The school needs textbooks and IT equipment for both students and lecturers. Salaries for the lecturers are low and some are working 'pro bono'. The law school also on the verge to publish the law journal, which last published in 1986. In addition to the law school, a legal studies institute was launched last year. The institute needs to be developed; it needs support with curriculum development. This will provide continuous training to judges, magistrates and other legal practitioners.

53. In the Judicial system of Liberia, there are internal mechanisms for addressing misconduct by judges and lawyers. There is the *Judicial Inquiry Commission*, which deals with complaints about unethical behaviour of judges; and there is the *Grievance and Ethics Committee* that deals with unprofessional conduct of lawyers. Thus, while there are accusations by ordinary people about corrupt practices and misconduct by judges and lawyers, there are mechanisms for addressing such issues.

54. Finally, the Ministry of Justice constitutes an integral part of the Judiciary because of its prosecutorial role. The ministry faces the challenge of inadequate legal counsels. One way the ministry has addressed this challenge is the establishment of a roving prosecution team that travels from county to county to support the county prosecution teams but this is not sufficient and sustainable.

c. Observations and Conclusions

55. The fourteen years of war had a tremendous impact on the Judiciary in Liberia. Many qualified lawyers fled the country; the infrastructure of the Judiciary was badly damaged; textbooks were destroyed; but efforts are underway to improve access to justice and ensure that there is rule of law throughout the country. The launching of the legal studies institute will contribute immensely to the continuous training of judges and other legal practitioners.

56. Most trained lawyers in the country continue to stay in Monrovia, the capital of the country. This has an adverse impact on the delivery of justice. If such trend is not curbed by the Government, the rest of the country will continue suffer. The Judiciary in the country has the potential to address its problems but it will require financial support in order to do so.

d. Recommendations

Short Term

- Advocacy to support the rebuilding and refurbishing of magistrates' courts and circuit courts; to provide coordinated and enhanced technical support and assistance to the Courts and prosecution so as to reduce delays and increase court efficiency.
- Support in the efforts to disseminate legal texts, including copies of the constitution and the codes of civil and criminal law and procedure, to all magistrates' courts and circuit courts;
- Provide support for the training of more lawyers in order to fill in the gap of inadequate legal counsels in the country;
- Advocacy for the acquisition of legal textbooks for the School of Law in order to meet the needs of the increasing student population;

Medium Term

- Advocacy to support civil society organizations financially and technically in designing and implementing community-based justice programs especially in rural areas;
- Advocacy to provide magistrates' courts and circuit courts with necessary resources for record keeping and case management, including typewriters and stationery;
- Encourage the Liberian Government to start tackling corruption in the justice system by raising the salaries of judicial officers, within the broader context of civil service reform.

Long Term

- Encourage the Government to uphold qualification standards for Justices of the Peace by conducting a serious vetting process before submitting applications to the executive for reappointment;
- Support for the training of justices of the peace, magistrates, circuit court judges and state-sponsored customary law officials in such areas as procedure and jurisdiction, application of legislation, case management, ethics and gender sensitivity

iv. Socio-Economic Development

a. General overview

57. Agriculture is the principal sector of the Liberian economy, accounting for 63.6 percent of the GDP in 2005. It is followed by services and manufacturing with 21.1 percent and 15.2 percent respectively. Before the outbreak of the civil war in 1989, the country was a major exporter of iron ore in the world. Other principal exports are diamonds, timber and rubber.

58. The war, it should be recalled, has exerted a heavy toll on human life, besides inflicting damage on the productive sector. Some of the consequences of the war include damaged physical and economic infrastructures, population displacements, erosion of human and social capital, and disruption of trade, decimated institutional capacities, and a breakdown of the social fabric. As a result, Liberia's economy collapsed with the GDP falling by 90 percent between 1987 and 1995. Average income in 2005 was just one-quarter of its 1987 level. Agricultural output dropped sharply, and mining, timber activities and rubber plantations shut down or were exploited by various warring factions.

59. Putting Liberia's economy back on a sustainable development path through recovery and the restoration of the structural balances became the major challenge to the nation since the inauguration of the new government following the 2005 elections. It is in this context that the government introduced measures aimed at economic recovery, through the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (iPRS) from July 2006 - June 2008 and the first Poverty Reduction Strategy covering the period April 2008 - June 2011.

60. These measures were articulated around the following four pillars: (1) expanding peace and security; (2) revitalizing the economy; (3) strengthening governance and the rule of law; and (4) rehabilitating infrastructure and delivering basic services. Subsequently, the economic growth reached an estimated 5.3% in 2005, and further increased to 7.8% in 2006 and 9.5% in 2007. The budget increased substantially because of the improvement in revenue collection, which reached US\$ 185 million in 2006 up from US\$80 million in 2006 and is projected at 329.8 million for the fiscal year 2010/2011. Furthermore, despite the projected withdrawal of UNMIL, donor contribution is equally expected to remain steady as an indication of renewed interest in the Liberian reconstruction and development effort.

A. Agriculture

a. Overview

61. Liberia is endowed with rich natural resources including arable land, sufficient rainfall, and enormous marine and water resources that can be used to put the country back on the path of socio-economic development. This is particularly significant since over 70% of the population is employed in the agricultural sector. And this is why the Ministry of Agriculture has initiated a programme, which aims to revitalize the rural sector as part of the country post conflict reconstruction and development programmes. For instance, the ministry is engaged in resource mobilisation for 17 projects over 2006-2008 with a total budget of US\$9.3million. Major funding agencies include USAID, EC, WB, AfDB, IFAD, UNPD and FAO. The majority of these projects target the broad objective of achieving high level of food security.

62. Subsequently, agricultural production has been increasing since 2006 with the rebound of major crops, particularly rice and cassava, which increased by 25 and 35

percent, respectively, over the 2006-2007 period. Although reliable data on livestock was not available, it is assumed that its production has rebounded mainly as a result of the return of those who fled the war and the intervention of NGOs.

b. Key Findings

63. Agricultural performance has been handicapped by structural barriers, inefficient policies and armed conflicts. Some of the structural barriers include limited human and financial resources, limited research capacity, inadequate extension services, inadequate mechanism for the distribution of inputs, poor rural marketing infrastructure, poor state of road network, inadequate water management facilities, land tenure issue, and low access of women to credit and inputs.

64. And yet, while agriculture contributes 42, 60 and 66 percent of total income, exports and employment opportunities, respectively. Only 1 percent of the total government budget was allocated to this sector but this trend has been reversed because the allocation for the FY 2009/2010 has been increased by 8 percent. Revitalizing the agriculture sector requires substantive support from the government in the form of supporting legislations (Such as the issue of land ownership), adequate investment, increased budget allocation, and mobilisation of resources from external partners.

65. The potential for *livestock* development is tremendous as the local demand of livestock products has long been satisfied mainly through imports from neighbouring countries at significantly high price due to high transaction costs (transportation, security and duties). Moreover, Liberia enjoys massive pasture lands that provide a good basis for undertaking cost-effective pastoral production system. Substantive idle arable land offers another splendid opportunity to establish large-scale maize-based animal feed industry. This could contribute to a competitive national livestock sector through the reduction of the production cost because of low feeding charge.

66. Nevertheless, there is a significant number of constraints that hamper the production of livestock. These include insufficient engagement of the MoA, limited human resources (one veterinarian appointed as the Director of Livestock division, 3 lab technicians serving under a World Bank-funded project- and no extension workers), and depleted animal stock. Furthermore, due to human and financial resources limitation, the Central Agricultural Research Institution (CARI) can barely engage in breeding programs (it has only one animal specialist). Other bottlenecks have to do with high cost of animal feed, lack of access to inputs and markets, ineffective supportive animal health services due to inadequate surveillance and reporting systems, vaccine bank, and veterinary medicine, essential tools and equipment.

67. Three projects are currently in operation in the animal health sub sector, two of which are focusing on promoting national preparedness against avian influenza. They are coordinated by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) and funded by AfDB and EC. The third project, a World Bank-funded initiative under implementation by FAO, has to do with the rehabilitation of the central veterinary laboratory, which is scheduled to be refurbished and provided with logistical and human resource support. The lab is yet to be fully operational mainly because of inadequate power supply and transport problem. These initiatives are complemented by the intervention of NGOs in support of livestock development in the rural area.

68. The extension department in the MOA has no extension workers. The ministry is planning to recruit 15 County Coordinators and 46 district agricultural officers, and to provide vehicles to Coordinators and motorcycles to district officers. Except for the distribution of rice seeds, the work of the extension service is very limited. The linkage between farmers and MoA needs to be substantially strengthened.

c. *Observations and Conclusion*

69. Human resource and financial constraints severely affect the operational capacity of MoA. The ministry has currently a total number of 250 staff down from 1,000 staff during the pre-conflict period. Land ownership constitutes another obstacle for the development of the agricultural sector. Furthermore, MoA could do more for the development of the livestock sub-sector. Overall, the rehabilitation of extension services require massive human, technical, institutional and financial support if they are to play a key role in the revitalization of the rural sector as a whole.

d. *Recommendations*

Livestock:

Short term

- The AU to advocate with the member states for the provision of short term as well medium term technical expertise in the area of livestock production and animal health. The AU to sensitize member states to provide short term training programs in selected areas of animal health and production to lab technicians as well as extension workers.
- The AU to advocate with member states for the provision of degree-based training. In particular, Nigeria could be approached to provide 2 annual scholarships to study veterinary science in one of its prominent vet schools (University of Agriculture in Abeokuta, Ogun state, and Amadu Bello University, Kaduna state).
- The AU to sensitize development partners to provide essential office equipment (computers and internet) and renovation, transportation for field surveys (7 double cabin and 45 motorcycle), and Vet kids.
- The AU to sensitise donor community to establish livestock-based projects in Liberia, assist in restocking livestock, and to assist the country in rehabilitating pasture areas, securing human rabies vaccine as well as other important vaccine such as PPR.

Medium term

- The AU should sensitize donor community to provide assistance to strengthening the livestock-based research capacity.
- The AU should assist in developing the educational curriculum at the College of Agriculture, which requires staff capacity development and the upgrading of its equipment and necessary tools.

- The AU should assist Liberia to restore membership in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- The AU should support Liberia in developing a veterinary legislation and in carrying out agricultural census

Agricultural Extension

Short term:

- The AU should encourage ECOWAS and other African member states to provide technical extension officers (1-2 years) to strengthen the capacity of the extension services. This will provide much needed experience to newly appointed staff.
- Sensitize ECOWAS member states to provide on-the-job and education-based training (particularly in Ghana and Nigeria).
- Sensitize the donor community to provide motorcycles for extension workers to facilitate mobility (assuming that the MoA will appoint 3-5 workers for each of the 46 newly appointed district officers, the total number of motorcycle would be in the range of 138-230).

Medium term

- The AU to work closely with member states to support curriculum development, staff capacity development. The College of Agriculture should also be supported with teaching tools and equipment.
- Assist in the development of extension policy, and strengthening the capacity of farmers' organizations.

B. HEALTH

a. *Overview*

70. The health care delivery system is structured in a decentralized form with primary health care approach being the strategy for achieving the ministry's vision of a nation with improved health and social welfare status. Though the sector suffered drastically like most other sectors during the war, the government has put in place structures that will assist in meeting the enormous challenges before it, with the support of the donor community.

b. *Key Findings*

71. The sector has in place a comprehensive health policy and plan that was developed in 2007. The document clearly outlines the focus, strategies and resources required for the reform of the sector. The 15 counties also have their individual plans in place.

72. Of the total budgetary allocation of USD76.7m to the health sector for the FY 2007/2008, the donors' contribution is projected to be in the tune of USD61.3m (79.9%). This evidently indicates high donor dependence. The ministry in a move to ensure proper coordination of donor assistance set up an external donor

coordination unit headed by a director. A consultancy firm, Price Water Coopers, recruited by one of the donors for the government is responsible for the ministry's financial management unit pending the availability of qualified officials of government.

73. The health sector has been receiving the largest allocation of funds in the national budget over the last 3 years, apart from the current year where it is placed behind public works and education ministries.

74. In spite of these positive developments, the health indicators still remain unsatisfactory. According to the 2007 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) report, infant and under -5 mortality rates are 71 and 110 deaths per 1000 live births respectively. This, with a maternal mortality ratio estimated at 994 per 100, 000 live births, life expectancy at birth estimated at 42 years and a neonatal rate of about 45 per 1000 presents a particularly worrisome situation.

75. The human resource capacity in terms of numbers and skills is low. On the average, there is only one medical officer and 12 nurses/midwives per county and virtually no or insignificant number of specialists in the entire country.

76. Access to services is generally limited. The destruction during the civil war resulted in damage to several health facilities and equipment. Of the total number of about 469 functional health facilities in the country, less than half meet the basic requirements for effective service delivery.

c. Observations and Conclusion

77. The sector is faced with numerous challenges that require more support if the country is to meet its goals, the current assistance by development partners notwithstanding. The infrastructural, human capacity, equipment and material (including drugs) needs are enormous. The majority of health facilities are in poor state and in need of basic equipment and drugs. The coordination of donor activities and their alignment with country programmes and goals are still challenges.

d. Recommendations

Short Term:

- AU to sensitize member countries to give support to the capacity building of health care providers by way of providing sponsorship particularly for doctors to undergo specialization programmes outside the country.
- AU to mobilize for and facilitate the donation of drugs to reduce the degree of drug scarcity in the Facilities. This will help in increasing utilization rate as identified by DHS report.
- AU to support the mobilization of financial assistance from bilateral and multilateral institutions and governments by way of contributing to the pool fund.

Medium Term:

- AU to mobilize member states to send experts in various fields to offer services and build capacity.

- Support government efforts in securing more donations and assistance with regards to acquisition of basic medical equipment.
- Assist in strengthening the health information management system particularly in the area of logistics (vehicles, motor bikes and training) by soliciting for donor assistance.

Long Term

- Support health facilities construction/rehabilitation efforts.

C. EDUCATION

a. *Overview*

78. The sector, which was rendered ineffective by the war, is now recovering gradually. Some of the damaged schools have been rehabilitated and new ones have been constructed or under construction. In an effort to encourage increased enrolment, the government has instituted a free and compulsory primary education and a reduction of fees charged in high schools. A special programme known as “Accelerated Learning Programme” (ALP) has been instituted to cater for over aged boys and girls who because of the war missed the opportunity of acquiring primary education. Under this programme, the normal 6-year primary education programme is compressed into 3 years. There are a total of 3926 primary and 328 secondary schools in the country. Three universities are accredited, two public and the other private.

b. *Key Findings*

79. The ministry with support from World Food Programme (WFP) has commenced a school feeding programme at the primary level to encourage enrolment, retention and learning. In addition to this, a special initiative to ensure girl child retention in schools has also been put in place where female students who a certain criteria on attendance are rewarded with take home rations on monthly basis.

80. Reports obtained from the statistics unit of the ministry show a total primary school enrolment figure of 539, 887 students for the 2007/2008 session which represents an increase of about 44% over 2003/2004 academic year. Girl/boy enrolment ratio has also experienced improvements within the same period. At the secondary school level, even though general enrolment has increased, male/ female ratio and girl child retention are still issues of serious concern.

81. Teacher/student ratio is poor and most of the available teachers need further training. For instance, at the tertiary level, the majority of the lecturers are first degree holders. The average number of students per class is 60 for the primary but the government is working on bringing this down to 45 at the maximum in the shortest possible time. The situation at the secondary level is not much different.

82. Major findings from the field visits point to the inadequacy of teachers and classrooms, teaching materials and aids, learning equipment and the uncondusive learning environment in most cases.

c. *Observations and Conclusion*

83. The schools visited by the team looked dilapidated with the limited facilities available being overstressed. Reconstruction and rehabilitation works have been greatly limited by financial constraints. In summary, the sector is faced with the challenge of insufficient trained teachers; lack of physical spaces (classrooms); inadequate equipment and furniture (desks, chairs etc) and teaching aids/materials.

d. *Recommendations*

Short Term

- African Union could assist with the supplies of essential text books and other teaching aids and materials as a contribution improving the quality of teaching. This AU could do through advocacy to member countries and donor institutions or producer groups.
- Support the human capacity building efforts in the country by i) training of key ministry officials to become better skilled for assigned responsibilities and ii) provision of sponsorship opportunities for teachers particularly university faculty staff to upgrade their knowledge. The existing AU/NEPAD Teacher Training programme could serve a useful purpose in this regard.
- Give support to the West African Examination Council (WAEC) to review the current curricula in schools and put the necessary structures in place that would guarantee the taking of the same examinations by grade 12 (final year senior secondary) students as other West African counterparts.
- Support the coordination for the country's pillar 4 inter-ministerial activities (comprising health, education, public works, agricultures ministries) by securing financial assistance in recruiting a consultant that will assist in the coordination of the activities of these ministries to ensure synergies and elimination of duplication of efforts.
- Advocate and solicit for financial assistance to Liberia from member countries and donor community by way of contributing to the pool fund.
- Support the on-going efforts by ECOWAS and AfDB in incorporating peace culture in schools curricula.

Medium Term:

- African Union could mobilize member countries to assist in filling the manpower gaps by sponsoring and sending their experts on temporary assignments to Liberia. This initiative is currently benefiting some countries but could be expanded especially in the face of the very poor student teacher ratio at all levels.
- Support the rehabilitation and upgrading of schools and provision of equipment especially for sciences courses.

D. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

a. *Overview*

84. Liberia is faced with high unemployment rate that is estimated at 85% and among the youth it is as high as 88%. The economy has not improved and therefore the burden of employment is on the public sector, which employs about 70,000 employees. The informal sector also employs about 420,000 people who live on meagre income. There is low productivity in this sector.

85. Female workers represent only 2% of the total work force in the modern sector of the economy but make up the vast majority of the country's small farm holders and the agricultural labour force that is responsible for more than 60% of the total agricultural products. In comparison with male workers, they have limited access to productive assets such as land, skills training, basic tools and technology.

86. One of the factors that continue to hamper the access of youth to the employment is inadequate training facilities. During the war years training infrastructure was badly damaged and this requires serious attention if the country should cope with the challenge of addressing youth unemployment.

b. *Key Findings*

87. The Government has formulated a draft National Employment Policy, which seeks to promote enterprise development and upgrading of the informal economy so that it employs more people; it also seeks to promote public-private partnership in order to create quality jobs; and capacity development. In addition, a National Youth Policy Action Plan has been drawn up to replace both the Liberia Emergency Employment Program (LEEP) and the Liberia Employment Action Program (LEAP). It seeks to address youth unemployment through programs such as youth cooperatives in agriculture, reforestation, construction and public-private partnership.

88. Youth programmes in Liberia are shared between three line ministries including youth, labour and commerce whereas the financial responsibilities are borne by the UN agencies which also deal with related management activities. This clearly illustrates that there is low national ownership of the programmes because of the weak institutional capacities of the line ministries. These ministries face acute shortage of human resources, inadequate infrastructure and meagre budgetary allocations.

89. Under the PRSP, the Ministry of Labour plans to implement projects geared at achieving the following objectives: a) strengthening the country's overall labour policy and administration; b) developing Liberia's national capacity for employment creation through the establishment of a National Bureau for Employment (NBE); and developing a national labour market information system.

90. The Government is also doing everything possible to mobilise resources for youth employment. For example, it aims to mobilise \$25m required to fund the MRU Multi Stakeholders programme for which the Government of Japan has already contributed \$500,000. Under this scheme, the government will rehabilitate vocational and educational training infrastructure, and fund micro finance projects.

91. In the private sector, the unavailability of skills continues to hamper economic activities in the hotel, restaurant and transportation sectors. The stimulation of the

private sector is also hampered by constraints such as cumbersome procedures as well as high administrative and regulatory costs such as business start up and work permit. The Chamber of Commerce and Trade Unions also suffer from inadequate capacity to properly play their role in addressing the challenges facing the country.

92. Although agriculture, the informal economy and SMEs are the driving force for the integration of the youth into the labour market, their development is also constrained by the absence of an appropriate credit system, inadequate skilled manpower, particularly in the technical areas, and low productivity in the manufacturing industry. The government's micro-credit scheme, if established, will go a long way in addressing some of these problems.

93. Here are growing concerns that when UNMIL pulls out and donor assistance begins to decline, the government may not be able to fill in the gap. Therefore, the issue of sustainability remains a major challenge.

c. Recommendations

Short Term

- AU and its member states could assist in providing experts both on employment policy-making and labour market information system;
- AU and its member states could assist in the rehabilitation of the country's vocational and educational training system with emphasis on youth and rural workers' skills development; and
- Facilitate an exchange programme on how other African countries have resolved post-conflict challenges relating to youth employment.

Medium Term

- Support in establishment of a public-private partnership framework for more and better access of students and young graduates to the job market. The private sector will need support to strengthen its capacity and implement practical skills development through apprenticeship;
- AU and its member states should provide expertise for the design of a micro finance policy in support to youth enterprise development, particularly in rural activities; and
- The AU and its member states should second an expert to Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs support the design of a strategic plan that will deal with the potential challenges to be posed by the departure of UNMIL and International NGOs in the future.

Long Term

- Support the implementation of skills training for women and girls, and pilot programmes in the urban and rural areas to ensure the safe transition from schools to work by girls; and
- AU and member states should assist in capacity development for public service employment through exchange programmes and technical assistance.

III. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

94. Like other post-conflict societies, Liberia faces two major challenges: resource and capacity constraints. Addressing these will require a number of measures including economic recovery and training of sufficient manpower to administer the affairs of the country both in the public and private sectors.

95. The recovery of the Liberian economy is predicated mainly upon the rehabilitation of mining, natural resources and agricultural activities as well as on infrastructural development. It is estimated that the total requirement of PRS is about US\$1.6 billion, of which 32% is expected to come from government sources, leaving a gap of 68%. While the government is planning to fill some of this gap through concession agreements to the private sector for the development of infrastructure, a substantial contribution from the donors will be required. In this regard, there are fears that insufficient external support could result in the scaling down of major programmes, and subsequently derail Liberia's recovery and reconstruction efforts. Therefore, resource mobilisation will be key to the implementation of PRS, which is expected to deliver peace dividend to the Liberian people.

96. Capacity constraints constitute a major challenge because most educated and skilled Liberians left the country during the war. The government is of the view that, with adequate financing, the nation could still fail to fully implement PRS if capacity constraints remain binding. This is why the administration is creating conditions for the return of the Diaspora and for the mobilization of their contribution to the country's transformation. In the same vein, it has initiated a significant number of capacity development programmes in the areas of vocational training, adult education as well as primary, secondary and tertiary education. Nevertheless, technical assistance is needed in the meantime to fill the current human and institutional capacity gap.

97. The issue of security (external and domestic) constitutes a major concern because it is indissolubly linked with efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction and development. The country belongs to the Mano River Union where conflict and instability in one country have potential spill over effects in the neighbouring countries. Therefore, there should be a sub regional approach to security and stability in Liberia. On the domestic front, with a large number of uneducated, unemployed and marginalized youth, lands disputes, limited police force, inadequate infrastructure, Liberia's internal stability needs constant monitoring if the current fragile peace is to be consolidated. This is important because large numbers of ex-combatants were neither rehabilitated nor reintegrated into the larger society.

Recommendations

98. The AU should assist in the resource mobilisation efforts of the government of Liberia through the provision of seed money for special programmes. For example, during an AU Executive Council session, a special pledging event of member States could be convened to support Liberia's post conflict reconstruction and development effort; and the organisation could also carry out political advocacy for resource mobilization with donors.

99. The AU should provide technical assistance in the forms of the deployment of relevant expertise from the member States and the mobilisation of the AU volunteer programme, with a view to leveraging the government's capacity building efforts.

100. The AU may wish to give serious consideration to the possibility of setting up a robust monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of the above recommendations in close consultation with the Government of Liberia. The proposed Mechanism may be in the form of requesting a highly respected personality of the Continent (a former Head of State , a former AU Secretary General , a former UN High Official from Africa etc) to use his/her good offices or serve as the Organization's Special Envoy to help iron out persisting differences between the Government and the Members of the Opposition parties essentially with a view to facilitating the achievement of True Reconciliation , which continues to be key to real Security, Progress and Development.

101. In preparation for the enhanced role the AU Liaison Office in Liberia would have to play in the above context, it is strongly recommended that concrete measures be taken for the Office to be reinforced without delay both in terms of human resources and in terms of logistics.

X. ANNEXES

a. Annex i

COUNTRY PROFILE

b. Annex ii

PERSONS MET

Minister of Youth and Sports, Mrs. Etmonia Davud Tarpeh H.E. Honorable Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Miata Beysolow; H.E. Honorable Minister of Public Works, Mr. Loseni Dunzo
H.E. honorable Minister of Labour, Mr. Atty.Samuel Kofi Woods, Atty. John F. Josiah, esq, deputy Minister/Administration
Sebastian T,Muh, Deputy Minister, Economic Affairs (
Edwin Kennedy Tetteh; Deputy Minister for Administration,
Mr. Moses P. Barwor, Jr, President-General of the Liberia Labour Congress
Mrs. Clara Doe Mvogo, National Technical Coordinator, UNIDO;
Henrietta Madia Peters, Deputy Secretary Programs and Coordination, Federation of Libeiran Youth;
Sneh Johanson, Assistant Minister VET,
Joseph Jimmy Sankaituah, President, federation of Liberian Youth,
Marbue Richards, Deputy Minister for Sports,
Uenisa K. Mayson, Assistant Prog Officer, FLY,
Hon. Ambulai Johnson, Minister of Internal Affairs.
Hon. Amadu Kiawu, Deputy Minister for Urban Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs.
Ms. Laurentine Bass, Senior Administrative Assistant, Office of the Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs.
Hon. James Fromayan, Chairman, National Elections Commission
Ms. Elizabeth Nelson, Co-Chairman, National Elections Commission
Mr. John Langley, Executive Director, National Elections Commission
Hon. Johnson Gwaikolo, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Mr. Jerome Verdier, Chairman, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
Mr. Nathaniel Kwabo, Executive Secretary, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
Ms. Frances Johnson Morris, Executive Chairperson, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.
Mr. Osman Kanneh, Commissioner/Enforcement, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.
Ms. Sandra Howard Kendor, Commissioner, Education Prevention, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.
Mr. Moulai Reeves, Commissioner/Administration, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.
Mr. Daniel Tipayson, Executive Director, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.
Mr. James Kaba, Chief Clerk/Legislative Consultant, House of Representatives.
Ms. Agnes Kortimai, Executive Director, ZORZOR District Women Care Inc.
Mr. Amos Sawyer, Chairman, Governance Commission.
Ms. Hawah Goll-Kotchi, Commissioner, Governance Commission.
Ms. Elizabeth Sele Mulbah, Commissioner, Governance Commission.
Mr. Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae, Decentralisation, Governance Commission.

H.E. Johnson Gwaikolo	Minister,	Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. James Logan	Deputy minister for planning an development	Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. Osmano Tall	Assistant Minister for Planning	Ministry of Agriculture
Dr. J. Owelibo Subah	Director General, Central Agr. Research Institute (CARI)	Ministry of Agriculture
Dr. Moses Zinnah	Technical Advisor	Ministry of Agriculture
Dr. k. Koikoi Kpadeh	Director, Animal Resources Division	Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. Dan Honig	Aid Management Advisor	Ministry of Finance
Dr. Quan Dinh	Technical Assistant to the Ministry of Agriculture	USAID
Mr. Martien Van Nieuwkoop	Program Coordinator, Agriculture and Rural Development Africa Region	The World Bank
Mr. Rogers Lubunga	Principal Irrigation Engineer	AfDB
Ms. Marianne Kurzweil	Agricultural Economist	AfDB

Hon Brownie J Samoukai (jnr) – Minister of Defence

Col Aaron T Johnson – Deputy Chief of Staff

Madam Beatrice Munah Sieh Brown – Inspector General of Police

Madam Asatu Bah Kenneth – Deputy Inspector General of Police for Administration.

Mrs Abba Gadegbeku Williams – Deputy Commissioner for Naturalization, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

Hon Fatumata M. Sheriff – Assistant Minister for Rehabilitation and Correction.

Mr J Henry Shaw – Deputy Director / Admin, Drug Enforcement Agency.

Mr Joseph Derrick – Director of Fire Service.

Mr G Alphonso Gaye – Commissioner of Customs and Excise

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