

**MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, SUITE 480  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

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27 May 2010

Excellency:

**Request for the Peacebuilding Commission's Engagement with Liberia**

On the instructions of my government, I have the honour to request that the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) supports the efforts of the Liberian people for sustainable peace and development by putting Liberia as the fifth country on its agenda, and by creating a country-specific configuration for that engagement.

The conclusion of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in August 2003, the deployment of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia and the assumption, in 2006, of national leadership by a democratically-elected government have combined to ensure stability in Liberia and the determined pursuit of post-conflict recovery. Early in its tenure, the Government introduced a broad set of policies to foster peace, promote democratic governance and accelerate reconstruction. These policies provided opportunities for reflection on the causes of the conflict; promotion of national reconciliation through dialogue across ethnic divides; creation of institutions, legal frameworks and processes for the protection and equal enjoyment of rights; and adoption of measures to improve the security and socio-economic wellbeing of Liberians.

In 2008, the Government launched its "Lift Liberia" Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) which articulated its vision and major strategies for steering the country toward rapid, inclusive and sustainable growth and development, over a three-year period (2008-2011). It defined the national priorities, organized around four pillars, namely: good governance and the rule of law, re-establishment and expansion of basic services, revitalization of the economy and infrastructural development.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
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.../2

Liberia has progressed markedly through the implementation of its recovery strategies. Improvements have been made in all sectors, although the country is still challenged to reach its development targets, including those set in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The United Nations has contributed immeasurably to the achievements recorded, most prominently through the indispensable presence and multifaceted support of UNMIL. The UNMIL has assured a secure and enabling environment which allowed Liberia to pursue peace consolidation and development, with assistance from committed bilateral partners, the United Nations agencies as well as the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

As you are aware, since 2007, the PBF has provided financial support to 25 projects in Liberia, aimed at addressing the legacies of decades of division and distrust, reducing risk factors that predispose the country to violent conflict and maximizing opportunities for institutionalizing peace. Results of a recent independent evaluation of the PBF portfolio, while reflecting positive impacts, indicate the need for sustained support for the continuation and geographical extension of some of these activities.

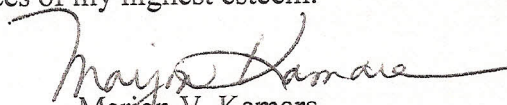
The Government and people of Liberia highly appreciate the tangible and strong support of the international community towards Liberia's peacebuilding efforts. However, there is a realization by the Government and the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, that peace in Liberia remains fragile, from a national and sub-regional perspective, and there are critical gaps which present unacceptable risks to peace.

Notable among the challenges which Liberia faces is to strengthen national capacities to uphold the rule of law, including maintenance of law and order, conflict management and effective monitoring of national borders, particularly in light of the inevitable withdrawal of UNMIL. There are also challenges which have implications for peace and stability in the sub-region. Overall, there is need to give fresh impetus to key components of Liberia's reform agenda.

My government is convinced that an engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission is timely and would be catalytic in enabling Government to operationalize plans for reform, particularly in the security sector. The positive experience of partnership between Liberia and the PBF provides the foundation for fruitful collaboration with the PBC.

The Government of Liberia looks forward to favourable consideration of its request.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

  
Marjón V. Kamara  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative