

STATEMENT
BY H.E. MR. DEE-MAXWELL SAAH KEMAYAH, SR.
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY &
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL (ECOSOC) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR
DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT
ECOSOC CHAMBER, NEW YORK,
MAY 21- 23, 2019

Madam President;

Excellencies;

Our thanks to Madam President and Team, for organizing this Economic and Social Council Operational Activities for Development Segment. This exercise is anchored on our resolve to ensure a United Nations Development System that is more strategic, accountable, transparent, and results oriented. We applaud the Secretary-General for his leadership, and express our support for his efforts and vision for a repositioned UN Development System (UNDS) that is more effective and fit for purpose; with the goal to enhance the suitability of the United Nations; and ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals.

The re-invigorated Resident Coordinator System is at the center of the mandate of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). Given the important role Resident Coordinators are expected to play; especially with respect to the SDGs, it is crucial to ensure adequate and predictable funding for the sustainability of the system. On the overall, a better funded UN Development System will have increased ability and leverage to support Member States; particularly developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs); in mobilizing finances for the achievement of the SDGs.

While commending the roll out of the new Resident Coordinator System, we are also cognizant that the lack of financing predictability has the potential to derail progress of the entire reform process. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, we still have gaps to ensure a fully funded Resident Coordinator System by the end of 2019.

To these, we welcome; and also laud the agreement on the funding compact by UN Member States. We look forward to its full operationalization.

Madam President;

The Secretary-General's proposals to reposition the UN Development System (UNDS) are based on reinforced national ownership and leadership; underpinned by a new generation -of Country Teams; led by competent, empowered and independent Resident Coordinators.

In this context, Liberia can only express its gratitude for the concrete support we continue to receive from the UN Country Team (UNCT); in particular, its support for the realization of the goals of our National Development Framework-The Pro poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). Liberia's Pro poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development among others, seeks to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development for shared prosperity. The UN Country Team continues to work with our national institutions and local communities; as the Government of Liberia, under the exemplary Leadership of His Excellency President George Manneh Weah, pursues the overarching goals of our Pro-Poor Agenda.

We believe that the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator System will further enhance coordination between the UN Country Team, and the Government.

Finally, Madam President; We re-affirm the support and commitment of Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of The Republic of Liberia, the Government and People of Liberia; to the Secretary-General's vision on the repositioning of the United Nations Development System (UNDS).

I thank you!