

**Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
At Official Certification by the National Elections Commission
Of Winners of the 2011 Presidential and Legislative Elections
National Elections Commission Conference Hall
Monday, November 28, 2011**

Fellow Liberians;
Partners and Friends of Liberia:

Let us first give honor and praise to the Almighty for His grace, His love and His immeasurable blessings that He continues to shower on all of us and our country. He has brought us here today, because without Him nothing is possible. So we pray God's guidance in leading our nation in the direction of peace, reconciliation and development.

My Fellow Citizens:

Our Constitution provides for the election of a President and a Vice President by universal adult suffrage of registered voters in our Republic. In keeping with our organic law, Liberians came out on October 11, and in a run-off on November 8, and expressed, exercised their right of franchise. We commend all of our people who came out in large numbers to vote, most especially our courageous women, who stood up to uphold the tenets of democracy by respecting our Constitution.

That same Constitution established our Elections Commission as an Autonomous Public Commission. Let me extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the Commissioners, other officers and members of the National Elections Commission for the conduct of an electoral process witnessed by local, regional and international observers. All spoke with one voice in declaring our elections to be peaceful, free, fair and transparent, notwithstanding the distractions.

We also say a big thank you to all of our partners, domestic and international, for their dedication and commitment to democracy in Liberia. We pledge to continue on this path and to earn your trust and confidence in the people of Liberia.

We are here today, Fellow Citizens, in obedience to our Elections Law of 1986, as amended, which empowers the Elections Commission to accredit all successful persons who have been duly elected as President, Vice President, and Members of the National Legislature.

In keeping with this mandate, this Commission has now certified me, and my running mate, Joseph Boakai, as President-elect and Vice President-elect of our Republic for a second six-year term of office. I humbly accept this certification, as President of all of our people, with an obligation to respond to the concerns of all Liberians, in an inclusive government that reaches out to all those who have felt marginalized, most especially our unemployed youth.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Liberian people for the confidence vested in us. We will not let you down! Winning re-election is an humbling honor, because it places a responsibility on us to work even harder to finish what we could not finish in our first term. It is a welcome responsibility, and it makes us more focused and strengthens our commitment and our resolve to get the job done.

We call upon all of our people, whatever your political affiliation or grouping, to join us in moving our country forward with renewed vigor and hope. There is so much work ahead. We cannot build a better Liberia by ourselves. We need the support, the constructive criticism and engagement of all Liberians so that we stay on track. Together, we can lift Liberia to meet the needs and aspirations of all of our citizens. We have the resources. We are a resilient people. We can make it happen.

We congratulate members of the incoming Legislature on your victory – those re-elected to office, and those who will be taking their seats for the first time. As the first session of the 53rd National Legislature gets under way in January 2012, I call upon you to demonstrate the same spirit of cooperation that has existed between the Executive and the Legislative Branches, as we join forces in bringing peace and prosperity to our nation and people.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature, let me say this: Our people have elected us, in the expectation that we will work together and put their interests first, to improve their lives and livelihoods. We cannot fail them. We must pledge to work together to craft the necessary legislation that will put more and more of our people to work, particularly our disaffected youth, and that will engender peace, reconciliation and renewal.

We must, and will, work collaboratively to create jobs and training; build basic infrastructure; bring electricity and clean water to more of our citizens; create the environment for Liberian businesses; maintain an open and accountable society; and fight corruption more effectively. We cannot retreat, not with so many children to educate, so many young people in need of technical and vocational training and jobs, and an economy that must be strengthened through new investment and proper management of our natural resources.

In our second term, we will continue to work to put the pieces together to ensure sustainability in peace, growth and development, not only in Liberia but in our sub-region, because what affects one of our neighbors impacts the others. We all need to grow our economies to be able to provide jobs, meet people's basic needs, and reduce the level of poverty which leads to conflicts.

To the youth of Liberia: I've talked about you; now I want to talk to you directly. I want to say to you that we have put in place all the fundamentals to address your needs: we have mobilized the resources for investment; we have put in the laws, and built the institutions. It took longer than we wanted, but now we feel that you will see, and feel, the difference. The benefits that may have escaped you in the last six years will now become a material fact. The jobs are coming. You now need to join us in training you to be able to take advantage of them.

Finally, let us, as all Liberians, take pride in what we have accomplished. We have taken a giant leap towards peace, national reconciliation and development. My Fellow Citizens: This is our country, our future, our victory. Together, we are writing the history of a new Liberia. Together, we will remain one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

May God bless our country. May God bless us all and safeguard our democracy.