

## Message of Thanks to the Government and People of Norway

From this distance, at home in Liberia, let me express my most profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Norway for the extraordinary reception accorded to me and the entire Liberian delegation that descended upon Oslo to witness, for history, the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Peace to not one, but two Liberian women and a Yemeni. I thank you for the honor given to the Liberian people through me, and for the warm courtesies I received.

I was touched by the genuine affection and warmth of the Norwegian people, even in the coldest of temperatures; by your gracious hospitality, everywhere we went; by your precision, which ensured that events began and ended on time.

The events in which I participated were so amazing and so fulfilling, and the people I met simply wonderful. I was touched, everywhere I went, to see crowds of people braving the frigid weather and lining up to wave to us and to make us feel at home in beautiful Oslo. I reiterate what I said at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert, that there can be no experience more self-satisfying than that.

To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, I again express my deepest gratitude for the recognition of all that women have suffered, for their resilience and perseverance, and for the bright future that has been given them through the awarding of the Prize to three women, who are the reflection of all women.

Norway is an increasingly significant partner in Liberia's reconstruction, and we thank the Government of Norway for that strong partnership. Our two countries have had diplomatic relations since 1890. Since our administration came to office, Norway has increased and solidified bilateral cooperation, contributing hugely to our country's energy and agriculture sectors. Norway is the largest sponsor of the Liberia Armed Violence Observatory and the country also provides personnel for the United Nations Mission in Liberia's Police Force.

For all that you have done and continue to do for Liberia, I say thank you. Thank you, Oslo, and thank you, Norway, for what you have done for me, for the women of my country and continent, and for women of the world. We thank you for this memorable occasion, one we can never forget.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

President, Republic of Liberia