

**Remarks by
Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President of the Republic of Liberia
at the
High Level Reception to Launch an Initiative in support of the Implementation of
Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Friday, September 25, 2015
Delegates Dining Room, UNHQ**

Your Majesty Queen Silvia,
Prime Minister Lofven,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is at pleasure to join this group of leaders from across the world to launch a call to action for the swift implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

I applaud you Prime Minister Lofven for organizing this event, a timely initiative, which moves us from words to action.

The 2030 agenda is probably the most universal agenda the world has ever put together, because every country, every segment of society was involved. It contains our collective ambition to transform our world, to ensure that every person lives to their fullest potentials, in safe, sustainable social environment.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are about to expire have taught us many lessons about human development and priorities, which must be put to work. But our world has changed very much since the MDGs were adopted in 2000. Wealth, knowledge and opportunities have greatly increased. So have new challenges. The events of the past years, including the financial crisis with its attending economic problems, growing concerns about climate change, the rise of extremism and the current displacement of millions of people running from their homes because of conflict, have all brought to the surface how closely linked we are, as people, no matter where we live. The 2030 development agenda is an answer to the challenges we face. Its implementation is the business of all and we must get everyone on board to make sure that the priorities in this agenda are implemented, starting today and going forward.

As we stand here today, to launch a universal movement for the implementation of the new agenda, we must galvanize the same level of participation that led to its creation.

The fact that we now have new actors involved in the development process, and I am speaking of academia, the private sector, civil society organizations and the media open new opportunities and the task will be how we tap into their energies and vision. And if I must add, women and the youth in every sector have to be empowered to make their input, from the decision making to implementation.

The people around the world have spoken and it is their views, their priorities that form the axis of the 2030 Development Agenda. They must therefore be involved in the implementation. We must make use of the new digital age that allows the free flow of information throughout the world. We must embark on a data revolution that would us to truly assess achievements and challenges as well as lay the ground for planning for the next steps.

To conclude, let me say that Liberia is honored to be part of this global move and we will spare no efforts or energy to ensure that the hard work that went into the formulation of this agenda are translated into actions. The future of our planet, the prosperity of our people and the sustainability of our economies will depend on how strongly we work together, to achieve the ultimate goal of this agenda: eradicate poverty, put an end to inequalities and establish strong partnerships in a world where no one is left behind.

Thank you.