

Opening Remarks by
Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President of Liberia and Co-Chair, U N High Level Panel of Eminent Persons
At its Fourth Session of Meetings
Bali, Indonesia
Wednesday, March 27, 2013
(As Delivered)

Mr. President,
Excellencies
Members of the diplomatic corps;
Honorable ministers and members of legislative bodies;
Colleagues;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a pleasure to join you today. I wish to extend our gratitude to you, Your Excellency and the great people of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to us since we landed in this nation of proud and industrious people. Although our primary reason for coming here is connected to the High Level Panel, we were also extended an invitation for a state visit, which has accorded Indonesia and Liberia the opportunity to explore new avenues for friendship and cooperation.

Through our interactions as Panel members during the past few months, we have established enduring ties that will live long beyond the life span of the High Level Panel. I have enjoyed the collaboration of my two fellow co-chairs and our teams, and I am sorry that the Prime Minister could not join us herein Bali.

Colleagues, we are assembled here in historic Bali to discuss and attempt to reach a consensus on the development of a global framework to confront the challenges facing humanity. We, the people of today's world have not only the responsibility, but also the capacity to change things around, to find solutions to the problems that confront us as one humanity, with one common destiny.

We pay tribute to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon who had the vision to create this panel, of people from various parts of the world and from many backgrounds to guide the process that crafts the new development agenda for our one world.

The High Level Panel is at a critical juncture of its deliberations. During meetings in London in November 2012 and in Monrovia in late February of this year, we made momentous progress in reaching key and decisive conclusions, pinpointed issues relating to individual vulnerabilities as well as identifying national building blocks for sustained prosperity. We are here today to take our effort to another level, to talk about global partnership, to discuss the financing and implementation of the new development agenda.

In a matter of weeks, we will reach the end of this consultative process, when, on May 30, 2013, President Yudhoyono will submit to Secretary General Ban Ki Moon the results of our many months of consultations and consensus building. I believe the final report of the HLP will stand in history as the result of one of the most open, transparent and global consultative processes in recent times. Over the past many months, members of the Panel participated in consultations at national, regional and global levels which took place in every part of the world. They traveled around the globe, listened to the concerns of the people, exchanged ideas with stakeholders from all walks of life, including the private sector, civil society organizations and professional institutions in order to grasp the totality of the challenges facing us.

Ending extreme poverty in our time, within the context of sustained development and building strong nations managed by accountable and transparent governments with inclusion and equity for all must be based on a new type of mutually responsible partnership that will require the participation of all stakeholders.

Through our many consultations, we identified issues relating to poverty, sustainable growth and environment, which we – the global community – have a duty to address if we are to ensure a better, world for future generations. Accordingly, as we approach the end of our mandate, we must continue to be mindful that we are tasked to devise, champion and determine the resources and the commitment required for a new global development agenda that is people-centered and planet-sensitive. Given the diversity of views and conditions, as individuals coming from all corners of the globe, our task is to prioritize the framework of the agenda in the order of magnitude that can gain global consensus and rally the necessary resources for implementation.

Realizing this post-2015 agenda will require a broader and more effective coalition of partners, greater policy coherence, new resources, better and more transparent financing instruments, innovative ways of channeling and maximizing returns on existing capacities and resources.

The challenge is to go beyond circumstantial alliances to a new, more durable partnership framework that involves new actors on the basis of shared principles and differential commitment and where relationships are redefined. It must be grounded in the essential concepts of transparency and mutual accountability. This will require a change of mindsets, a redefinition of relationships and decisive actions. We can no longer rely on the old divides and dichotomies, North and South, rich and poor or left and right.

After identifying the greatest challenges facing us, we must find the means, including the several innovative ideas on financing, to pay for the implementation of the new integrated global development agenda. This will constitute an important aspect of our discussions here in Bali.

I am confident that not only can the Panel formulate new approaches on how to move the agenda forward, but also and more importantly, that we, as a global community, can muster the resources and the capacity to succeed through collective and concerted efforts.

I thank you.