

**Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President of the Republic of Liberia
on National Vision 2030 Conference
to be Held in Gbarnga, Bong County
December 10-12, 2012**

My Fellow Liberians and Friends of Liberia:

I am pleased to announce that, after 18 months of nationwide consultations and careful research, the National Conference, Liberia Rising 2030, is set to take place in Gbarnga, Bong County, from December 10th to 12th.

The Conference will bring together Liberians from all regions of our country and walks of life: teachers and students, chiefs and elders, religious leaders, political party leaders, representatives of women's groups, and youth groups, along with members of the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive to discuss and arrive at a consensus about the kind of future we all want for our beloved Liberia.

In preparing for the Conference, a broad-based Steering Committee was organized to hold consultations with Liberians at home and abroad. A total of 156 district-level consultations and 5 regional consultations took place across the country. Consultations were also held with Liberians abroad: one each in Ghana and in London, and four in cities across the United States. These consultations were informed by research on the challenges facing Liberia, conducted by an able team of Liberians.

When we all meet in Gbarnga, we want to be able to come out of the National Conference with a clear Vision of where we want Liberia to be by the year 2030. This Vision will be owned by all Liberians. It will guide our efforts for national reconciliation and for national development. It will help us build a more equal, just and prosperous society. Our policies on health, education, infrastructure development, youth employment and empowerment, among others will all be brought into line in our collective National Vision. Moreover, succeeding administrations will have a chance to build upon these programs being guided by our common Vision.

I call upon all Liberians – no matter what political party you belong to, what religion you profess, or whether you are old or young – and I especially call on our young people to join your fellow citizens and let us support the National Vision Conference, Liberia Rising 2030.

Let us put Liberia first as ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION, UNITED FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT.

I thank you, and look forward to seeing you in Gbarnga.

[President Sirleaf then delivered a similar message in Simple English.]