

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020

Her Excellency Madam Clar M. Weah, First Lady of the Republic of Liberia;

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members of the House of Representatives;

Mr. President Pro-Tempore and Members of the Senate;

The Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

The Dean and Members of the Cabinet;

Bishops, Prelates, and Members of the Clergy;

Officials of Government;

Heads and Members of Political Parties here present;

The resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Liberia;

Local and International Development Partners;

Political and Business Leaders;

Distinguished Personalities;

Members of the Fourth Estate;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am glad to be here today to participate on this special occasion marking the observance of the remarkable milestone the UN has achieved.

It bears testament to the foresight of its vision bearers to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations and be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations; adopted on 25 June and formally enacted on 24 October 1945.

As we celebrate, in advance, the Seventy Fifth (75th) year of UN existence, Liberia, one of the 50 countries that signed the Charter in San Francisco is proud to be a success story of what the UN stands for.

We can proudly say, the world is safer today and more prosperous because of the UN. However, some of the main focus of this august body must be realigned to current day realities. Countries and peoples have evolved. The world has changed and we must adjust to continue to achieve the objectives of the San Francisco Charter.

Over the decades of its existence, the UN has scored remarkable progress around the world, particularly on the peace and security pillar. Its Peacekeeping missions, including UNMIL, for example, has brought about law and order from intractable conflict situations. It remains the beacon of fundamental human rights for all, including freedom of speech, gender equality and women's empowerment.

In addition, the body has helped and continues to lead during health emergencies. With UN assistance, Liberia combatted Ebola and is now withstanding COVID- 19 a deadly disease that is not going away.

COVID-19 has immensely overwhelmed healthcare systems around the world, including those of developed nations. Its attendant economic crisis continues to have adverse impact on many nations around the world.

Ours has been no exception, but working with our various partners, including the UN, we have seemingly been spared some of the most negative effects of the crisis so far.

While the Pandemic lingers, we have experienced and continue to see different acts of violence and civil unrests in our sub-region. Let us remember that the real enemy is COVID 19 and not ourselves and our people.

Let's refrain from violence and embrace peace, because it is only through peace and stability development for our people and countries are possible.

My government remains committed to the UN in securing world peace and upholding basic human rights for all.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Kingsley Opoku Amaning, Resident Coordinator and Staff for a great working relationship between the UN and the Government of Liberia. In our various discussions over the implementation of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, there has been a common understanding that my Government and the United Nations will work more with the communities across the counties. I would therefore like to see a greater and stronger United Nations presence at the community level to enable the body tailor solutions that will benefit the people.

In closing, I would like to again thank the UN for its tremendous collaboration with the government of Liberia in finding solutions for the advancement of lives and livelihoods of our people.

Congratulations once again!