

Madam Chairperson and Members of Delegations to this 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development

Madam Chair, let me join other previous speakers to congratulate you and Members of the Bureau for your preferment to steer the affairs of this 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Madam Chair, please permit me to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation, on behalf of the President, H. E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the Government and People of Liberia, to the UNFPA and all other multilateral and bilateral partners for their assistance and direct interventions during the fight against the deadly Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia and our sister countries, Sierra Lone and Guinea in 2014.

Liberia participated in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt and since then, Liberia has always supported the ICPD Plan of Action. Liberia has in fact set up the Population Policy Commission (PPC) with a Secretariat that makes sure population issues are incorporated into national policy plans as well as monitor the implementation of such policy plans. The Population Policy Commission was chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs (MPEA), but currently it is chaired by the Liberia Institute and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) since the MPEA has been merged with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to form the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFPD).

Madam Chair, currently, the Government through the LISGIS is conducting a Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) for the first time since 1964. The survey is also the first post war

