Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission Liberia Configuration

12 November 2020

Chair's Summar

- On 12 November 2020, H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Swe en to t!e "nite Nations an #!air of t!e \$iberia #onfi%&ration of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% #ommission)P*#+, 'onvene an Ambassa oria(,(eve(meetin% for t!e overnment of \$iberia an internationa(partners to &p ate on priorities for 'ontin&e s&pport to b&i(in% an s&stainin% pea'e in \$iberia, wit! a fo'&s on \$iberia.s senatoria(e(e'tions, referen &m)on t!ree iss&es re/&irin% 'onstit&tiona(reform+ an two representative b0,e(e'tions, s'!e &(e for 1 2e'ember 2020, an t!e re(ate iss&e of women.s parti'ipation an empowerment in \$iberia.
- 2. 3n !er openin% remar4s, t!e # !air re 'a((e t!e meetin% of t!e 'onfi%&ration in Apri(fo '&se on t!e so'ioe'onomi' impa't of #O532,16 in t!e 'o&ntr0, an !er s&bse/&ent virt&a(visit to \$iberia, meetin% wit! t!e - overnment an 'ivi(so'iet0, as we((as meetin%s wit! t!e 3M7 an t!e 8 or(*an4, fo'&se on t!eir assistan'e &rin% t!e pan emi'. 9!e #!air note t!at one of t!e 4e0 messa%es 'omin% o&t of !er is'&ssion wit! 'ivi(so'iet0 or%ani:ations in ;&ne, was t!eir as4 for t!e internationa('omm&nit0 to 4eep attention on &p'omin% e(e'tions, ens&rin% t!e0 are 'on &'te in a free, fair an transparent manner. 9!e #!air stresse t!at t!e e(e'tions an t!eir o&t'ome wo&(pose a si%nifi'ant test to emo'ra'0, pea'eb&i(in% an s&stainin% pea'e in \$iberia over t!e 'omin% mont!s< an a(so note t!e si%nifi'an'e for \$iberia of t!e sit&ation re(ate to e(e'tions in t!e s&bre%ion. S!e !i%!(i%!te \$iberia.s stron% !istor0 of women.s parti ipation an (ea ers! ip in pea'eb&i(in% an t!e importan'e of efforts to ens&re women.s f&((, effe'tive an meanin%f&(parti'ipation in t!ese e(e'tions. S!e a(so note wit! 'on'ern, reports of in'rease se=&a(an %en er, base vio(en'e in \$iberia &rin% t!e mont!s of (o'4 own &e to #O532,16 an 'ommen e t!e %overnment.s response, in'(& in% b0 e'(arin% rape a nationa(emer%en'0 an a((o'atin% reso&r'es to t!e imp(ementation of a Nationa(Roa map on Rape an S - * 5 pro & e b0 an 3nter, Ministeria 9as4for'e. 7ina((0, s!e !i% !(i% !te t!e important ro(e p(a0e b0 'ivi(so'iet0 & rin% an e(e'tion perio .
- >. H.E. 2ee, Ma=we((Saa! Kema0a!, Minister of 7orei%n Affairs of \$iberia &n ers'ore t!e time(iness of t!e meetin% an t!e overnment.s 'ommitment to t!e !o(in% of free, fair, transparent an pea'ef&(e(e'tions, 'riti'a(to pea'e an eve(opment in \$iberia, 'itin% in parti'&(ar efforts to ens&re t!e parti'ipation of women, 0o&t! an ot!er mar%ina(i:e %ro&ps, an to a ress vio(en'e a%ainst women. He f&rt!er note t!e a((o'ation of appro=imate(0 "S? @ mi((ion to t!e e(e'tions. 9!e Minister &p ate t!e #ommission on \$iberia.s nationa(response to t!e #O532,16 pan emi', wit! t!e s&pport of t!e internationa('omm&nit0, in'(& in% its

note t!e - overnment.s 'ontin&e wor4 to a ress 'orr&ption an rape as a nationa(emer%en'0.9!e wor4 of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% 7&n in s&pport of nationa(pea'eb&i(in% priorities was a(so we('ome .

- C. Mrs. 2avi etta *rowne \$ansana!, #!airperson of t!e Nationa(E(e'tions #ommission)NE#+ of \$iberia &n ers'ore t!e importan'e of free, fair, 're ib(e an vio(en'e, free e(e'tions to pea'e an stabi(it0 in \$iberia an t!e 'ontin&e wor4 of t!e NE# to en%a%e a((sta4e!o(ers, in'(& in% 'ivi(so'iet0 or%ani:ations, women an persons wit! isabi(it0, 0o&t! %ro&ps, fait! base or%ani:ations, (o'a(non%overnmenta(or%ani:ations, 'omm&nit0 base or%ani:ations, t!e me ia an po(iti'a(parties. 9!e #!airperson &p ate on efforts to ens&re t!e inte%rit0 of t!e voter ro((, in'(& in% t!ro&%! t!e s&pport of "N2P an E#O 8 AS< stron%er 'o((aboration between t!e NE# an t!e \$iberian Nationa(Po(i'e< stren%t!enin% of e(e'tora(isp&te reso(&tion me'!anisms< an wor4 wit! t!e 8 omen.s Sit&ation Room) 8 SR+ \$iberia bran'!, a 'onf(i't mana%ement me'!anism, to re'eive an report information re(ate to vio(en'e a%ainst women. 9!e #!airperson a(so note efforts at (e%is(ative reform to ens&re no (ess t!an >0 per'ent of 'an i ates on po(iti'a(part0 (ists of ea'! %en er. An o&tstan in% '!a((en%e, note b0 t!e #!airperson, is t!e e(a0e re'eipt of f&n in% from t!e overnment b0 t!e #ommission)wit! "S?@ mi((ion of a tota(b& %et of "S?1>.D mi((ion re'eive +. 3n t!is re%ar , t!e #!airperson 'a((e for internationa(s&pport.
- D. On be!a(f of t!e "nite Nations, Mr. Mo!ame 3bn #!ambas, t!e Spe'ia(Representative of t!e Se'retar0, - enera()SRS - + an Hea of t!e "nite Nations Offi'e for 8 est Afri'a an t!e Sa!e() "NO 8 AS+, an Mr. Kin%s(e0 Op&4& Amanin%, t!e "nite Nations Resi ent #oor inator)R#+ in \$iberia a.i. briefe t!e #ommission. 9!e SRS - !i%!(i%!te t!e 'onte=t of five Presi entia(e(e'tions in t!e 8 est Afri'an s&b.re%ion< a n&mber of w!i'! !ave s!own !ow &n er(0in% %rievan'es 'an easi(0 trans(ate into po(iti'a(vio(en'e an &p ate on efforts wit! partners in '(& in% - overnments, po(iti'a(parties, 'ivi(so'iet0, E#O 8 AS, A" an ot!er re%iona(or%ani:ations, to 'ontrib&te to 're ib(e, transparent, in'(&sive e(e'tions in t!e interest of re%iona(stabi(it0 an pea'e. *ot! t!e SRS - an R# &p ate t!at wor4 in \$iberia !as in'(& e te'!ni'a(s&pport teams from E#O 8 AS an "N2P assistin% t!e NE# in t!eir efforts to improve an &p ate t!e voter ro(()wit! near(0 >00,000 new voters re%istere, of w!i'! C0 per'ent are fema(e+, an 'ommen e t!e NE# for its !ar wor4< notin% a(so t!e '&rrent b& %et s!ortfa((. E#O 8 AS, t!e R# an "NO 8 AS 'ontin&e to provi e time(0 an effe'tive po(iti'a(fa'i(itation to miti%ate possib(e areas of tension between po(iti'a(sta4e!o(ers, in'(& in% 'oor inatin% '(ose(0 wit! t!e Mano River "nion. 9!e on%oin% wor4 of finan'ia(instit&tions in'(& in% t!e 8 or(*an4, 3M7 an Afri'an 2 eve(opment *an4 in a''ompan0in% t!e - overnment of \$iberia in s&stainin% pea'e an eve(opment was a(so 'ommen e .
- @. *ot! t!e SRS an R# note t!e 'ontin&in% '!a((en%es of po(iti'a(representation b0 women< wit! 20 of t!e 111 senatoria('an i ates bein% women, an t!e on(0 fema(e senator.s seat &p))</p>

for re,e(e'tion, wit! t!e 'onse/&ent ris4 of !avin% an a((,ma(e senate fo((owin% t!e e(e'tions.

9!e mar%ina(i:ation of women in po(iti'a((ea ers!ip positions, as we((as 'on'ernin% rates of vio(en'e a%ainst women in t!e 'onte=t of t!e e(e'tions an se=&a(an %en er, base vio(en'e, were emp!asi:e as points of parti'&(ar 'on'ern, an in'(&sion of women an 0o&t! i entifie as 'riti'a(to b&i(in% (astin% pea'e an stabi(it0 in \$iberia.

9!e in ispensab(e ro(e of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% #ommission H an t!e e i'ation an 'ontrib&tion of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% #ommission.s \$iberia 'onfi%&ration H was emp!asise, as a p(atform for rivin% 'o!eren'e an 'oor ination, an to mobi(ise internationa(s&pport to nationa((0 owne an (e pea'eb&i(in% initiatives, in t!e 'onte=t of t!e e(e'tions an t!e #O532,16 pan emi'.

9!e0 reiterate t!eir s&pport for t!e - overnment of \$iberia an its peop(e an voi'e s&pport for \$iberia.s 'ontin&e efforts to a'!ieve s&stainab(e eve(opment t!ro&%! t!e imp(ementation of t!e Pro,Poor A%en a for Prosperit0 an 2eve(opment, a ress root 'a&ses of 'onf(i't, ma4e pro%ress on o&tstan in% pea'eb&i(in% priorities an 'onso(i ate pea'eb&i(in% %ains, in'(& in% investment in b&i(in% responsive an effe'tive nationa(instit&tions an en!an'in% 'apa'it0 b&i(in%, %overnan'e reform, wor4 on so'ia('o!esion an %en er e/&a(it0, in'(& in% efforts to a ress se=&a(an %en er,base vio(en'e, re'on'i(iation an transitiona(F&sti'e. 3t was note t!at 'ontin&e wor4 to a ress so'io,e'onomi' '!a((en%es, in'(& in% t!ro&%! t!e s&pport of t!e 8 or(*an4, was important. 9!e va(&ab(e 'ontrib&tion of t!e Pea'eb&i(in% 7&an to pea'eb&i(in% in \$iberia was we('ome, an interest e=presse in 'ontin&o&s (earnin% an eve(opment of %oo pra'ti'e t!ro&%! t!e wor4 of t!e 7&an.

#ross,bor er '!a((en%es, in'(& in% t!e in'rease in ref&%ees, an 'on'erns abo&t
re%iona(stabi(it0 were a(so !i%!(i%!te , in'(& in% t!e s&pportive ro(e of "NO 8 AS an
E#O 8 AS an 'o((aboration wit! t!e Mano River "nion. 9!ere was a s&%%estion t!at
t!e s'a(in% &p of 'ross,bor er proFe'ts s!o&(be e=p(ore , in'(& in% t!ro&%! partnerin%
wit! internationa(finan'ia(instit&tions.

6. Mr. Os'ar 7ernan e:,9aran'o, Assistant Se'retar0, - enera(for Pea'eb&i(in% S&pport we('ome t!e opport&nit0 for t!e #ommission to a%ain be an internationa(so(i arit0 p(atform for \$iberia wit! a time(0 is'&ssion in s&pport of 're ib(e an t))

a%ree wit! t!e va(&e of s!arin% (essons (earne from t!e 7&n . \$004in% forwar , !e sai t!e 7&n is e=p(orin% !ow it 'o&(s&pport 'ontin&e ia(o%&e an re'on'i(iation efforts an is in t!e fina(sta%es of 'onsi erin% two pea'eb&i(in% proposa(s from 'ivi(so'iet0 or%ani:ations, s&bmitte &n er t!e ann&a('ompetitive %en er an 0o&t! promotion initiative.

- 10. 3n !is '(osin% remar4s, H.E. Mr. 3srae(2avies, #!ar%I .Affaires, Mission of \$iberia to t!e "nite Nations, reaffirme t!e importan'e of pea'ef&(e(e'tions an t!e stren%t!enin% of emo'ra'0 in \$iberia, an e=presse %ratit& e to t!e internationa('omm&nit0, t!e "nite Nations, wor4in% '(ose(0 to%et!er wit! E#O 8 AS, t!e Pea'eb&i(in% #ommission an t!e parti'&(ar 'ommitment of Ambassa or Eneström, an t!e Pea'eb&i(in% S&pport Offi'e an Pea'eb&i(in% 7&n .
- 11. 9 !e # !air t!an4e t!e briefers an too4 note of t!e man0 &p ates on t!e wor4 bein% 'arrie o&t in or er to 'reate a 'on &'ive environment for t!e e(e'tions, an t!e '!a((en%es a!ea . S!e emp!asi:e t!e importan'e of t!e e(e'tion to t!e 'ontin&e pat! of t!e 'o&ntr0 to s&staine pea'e, an t!e nee for a((to wor4 towar ens&rin% t!e e(e'tions ar