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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission Liberia Configuration

United Nations Security Council

9th March 2021

New York

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Ann Karin, and thanks to the honorable ministers and all our briefers for their insightful presentations.

I begin by welcoming the commitments made by the Government of Liberia to advance women's empowerment and gender equality across all sectors. This is essential in ensuring the full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation of diverse women. In this regard, the PBC must also be commended for providing over a decade of financial and technical support as part of the gender mainstreaming work.

My delegation notes the progress made with regard to women's political participation. We welcome the dialogue efforts of both the Government and Community based organizations, as well as the PBF's role in supporting dialogue at the local level. We also note the growing enthusiasm of women in governance and decision-making spheres. **Women's equal participation and leadership in all social, economic, and political processes, must continue to be prioritized as a critical aspect of Liberia's development. We must not forget the critical role of women in the peace process in Liberia. However, we must now ensure that diverse women justly participate and lead in all aspects of local and national development.**

The Government's dedication has led to some progress in its efforts to protect women and girls from sexual harassment and other forms of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. We take particular note of increased reporting and investigations of Sexual and Gender Based Violence cases, improved legal and judicial frameworks, and the introduction of a national roadmap on Rape and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

We applaud the establishment of the second National Action Plan on WPS (2019-2023) to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions and note that this was done in alignment with Liberia's National Development Plan. We also commend the Government of Liberia for assigning resources to operationalise this second National Action Plan, as well as the PBF for their support for government policy, planning, and budgeting of the Plan. **We encourage the continued collaboration between the PBC and the Government to meet key targets on participation and ending Sexual and Gender Based Violence, as set out in this second National Action Plan.**

We end by reiterating support for more capacity building, improved financial provision, awareness-raising, inclusivity, strengthened community-based organizations and collaboration at both the national and community levels.

Thank you Chair.