

Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)
Ambassadorial-level meeting on
19 August 2024

On August 19, 2024, the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission held a high-level ambassadorial meeting to address Liberia's peacebuilding priorities, particularly focusing on transitional justice and youth inclusion. The Chair of the Liberian Configuration welcomed the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and the National Security Adviser of Liberia. The Ministers outlined the President of Liberia's

and contributed to reinforce the Independent Human Rights Commission. She indicated that the contributions by the Fund have also been instrumental in community-based reconciliation mechanisms and youth empowerment initiatives. When concluding her remarks, the Minister noted that because Liberia was at a pivotal moment in its history, the support by the international community in establishing the War and Economic Crimes Court and implementing the NAP on YPS was critical. She also called for a UN General Assembly resolution to support Liberia's war and economic crime efforts.

3. **The Minister of Justice and Attorney General, H.E. Cllr. N. Oswald K. Tweh,** expanded on the establishment of the OWECC tasked with developing the necessary framework

the court's operations, independency and transparency as well as minimizing threats that victims and human rights defenders may face during trials. Mr. Dempster stressed the importance of integrating women, victims and youth in decision-making processes for the transitional justice and designing mechanisms that address their specific needs from the earliest phases.

6. **The President of the Federation of Liberian Youth, Ms. Banica Elliott**, expanded on how the integration of youth into the peace and security framework, as well as their active participation in the 2023 elections contributed to fostering dialogue via the inter party youth council. She expounded on the challenges facing the youth, which included access to resources, education, unemployment, social programmes, and their lack of inclusion in decision making as well as the risks of falling into negative influences, such as drugs and substance abuse. On the aspect of the YPS National Coalition, she briefed on the regional consultations held in September to inculcate youth with an understanding of the YPS agenda, as well as advancing the Gender coalition. She noted that Liberia was amongst the few countries in the continent that were developing a NAP. She called on support to equip youth with the necessary skills, as well as the importance of training on gender sensitivity, pointing out the establishment of a women's resource centre.

7. **In the ensuing dialogue, the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, H.E. Dr. Michael Imran Kanu, as respondent**, shared Sierra Leone's post-conflict path towards sustaining peace, focusing on its transitional justice process with the TRC and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). On the TRC, the Ambassador noted that it was also grounded on traditional methods of healing, providing a space for public testimony and healing. Combatants were also invited to disarm and to reintegrate to "normal" life through the encouragement of the local population. In regard to the SCSL, the Ambassador recounted the process through which it was formally established and the novelty of its hybrid format. The Ambassador indicated that the SCSL made notable achievements and was the first international criminal court to prosecute persons bearing "greatest responsibility"; to try and convict persons for the recruitment and

economic opportunities, such as vocational training, livelihoods, educational grants, participation in agriculture, digital literacy amongst other areas.

They urged for the coordination of the YPS Agenda with regional actors to ensure coherence in capacity-building programs for youth and women. These programs should empower them to actively participate in transitional justice and peace processes. Additionally, they called for the provision of technical expertise in areas such as reconciliation, justice, good governance, security sector reform, and economic development, with a particular emphasis on supporting women and youth.

They underlined the essential role of civil society, especially women and youth groups in consolidating peacebuilding, and in ensuring nationally led, owned and driven process that promote outreach, social cohesion and durable peace. They welcomed the participation and involvement of civil society organizations in PBC meetings.

needs. On youth empowerment, Ms. Dabo informed that the PBF had invested approximately 17 million US dollars in projects that contribute to political, social and economic empowerment of marginalized youth in different counties through vocational training, productive livelihoods, leadership skills in support to their communities. It also enabled them to participate in elections and in dialogue fora with community leaders and authorities. Finally, Ms. Dabo indicated that currently, the PBF investments were supporting, among other things, the establishment of the National Coalition on Youth Peace and Security and that her Office, PBSO