



# REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

## Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission



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### Your Excellency:

The Liberian delegation is delighted and very excited to participate in the first ever Global Refugee Forum for refugees currently convening in Geneva, Switzerland.

We first and foremost bring greetings from His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia.

The Government of Liberia is pleased to use this medium and forum to commit the following pledges and commitments as we convene this all important forum relating to refugees within our borders.

### **1. Durable Solution: Endorsement and Implimentation of the Local Integration for social, economic and legal inclusion.**

- The Government of Liberia with the support from UNHCR and other stakeholders is implementing a Multi-Year and Multi-Partner (MYMP) Local Integration Strategy (2019-2023) for all those Ivorian refugees unable/unwilling to return to Cote d'Ivoire under the ongoing voluntary repatriation programme or on spontaneous basis. The strategy in its first year of implementation has commitment for five years from various levels of Liberian government including key government ministries/institutions as well as various partners for smooth legal and socio-economic integration of these refugees into their hosting communities and enjoyment progressively of full rights as Liberian citizens (for those opting for naturalization) or as Ivoirians living in Liberia under a long-term resident permits. Government of Liberia in this regard is committed to make necessary changes in the legal framework as well as create conditions for equal access to services and economic inclusion of all the integrating refugees with the necessary financial support from all the partners throughout the period of implementation of the strategy.

## **2. Protection capacity: Strengthening existing laws and policies to improve refugees access to right and services including documentation ; GBV**

- With support from international partners, the Government of Liberia will review and finalize the amendment of existing national laws and policies such as the 1993 Liberia Refugee Act, the 1974 Alien and Nationality Law, the adoption of the IDP Law, the Statelessness Action Plan and incorporation of refugees in the National Human Rights Action Plan. All integrating Ivorian refugees will have access to civil documentation such as ID Cards, work and resident permits, machine readable Convention Travel Documents (CTD) and Drivers Licenses. Advocacy for Refugees acceptance and participation for purposes of integration into the Liberian society will be enhanced in all refugee hosting communities by relevant stakeholders led by LRRRC. The Liberian government will provide residence permits to refugees who opt to integrate in Liberia as Ivoirians or opt to naturalize. Up to 5000 refugees are expected to locally integrate in Liberia.
- Sexual and gender based violence protection  
It is a sexual and gender based violence protection mechanism, which establishes a one stop center at health facilities to expeditiously provide medical, psychosocial and legal protection to survivors of SGBV to 8,000 refugee population in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland.

## **3. Job and livelihood: Access to land for locally integrating Ivorian refugees to aid socio-economic integration into Liberia and strengthening market based TVET**

- The Government of Liberia commits to provide land for agriculture and permanent housing to the locally integrating Ivorian refugees. The government requires financial support for agriculture and other livelihoods activities as well as for provision of permanent refugee shelter to integrate Ivorian refugees and vulnerable host community members. In order to improve the livelihoods opportunities for refugees, government is negotiating access to the land for agricultural activities and housing for refugees. In line with the national development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PAPD) and based on the current laws and regulations such as the Land Right Act, the GoL is negotiating with the host communities and local authorities provision of land for agriculture activities which will contribute to the improvement of food security and economic activities as well as cater the housing needs. The Government of Liberia, after successfully acquiring 315 acres of land in Nimba, is currently in negotiation with other county authorities to ensure a total of over 1,000 acres in Grand Gedeh, Maryland and Nimba. It is estimated that 5000 Ivorian refugees will benefit from this land acquisition in three counties.

- GoL is intending to strengthen market based TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) for refugees and host community

In 2018, the Government of Liberia and the European Union signed a six year financial agreement for TVET and support to the civil society. In line with the national development plan (PAPD), the GoL, through its leading Ministries and with support of development partners, particularly UNESCO, will include refugees in the updated market based TVET curricula, which will benefit at least 600 refugees and host communities with more emphasis on youth and women training.unities.

#### **4. Education: Integration of refugee school into the national education system**

- The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education and relevant line ministries and agencies will provide support to all refugee integrated schools which currently are at Primary and Junior High levels as well as incorporate instructional staff to ensure quality education for over 2,000 Ivorian refugee children and host communities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties. The contribution includes oversight by MOE, inclusion into Education Management Information System (EMIS), supply of school materials, teaching and learning materials and inclusion of teaching staff (including qualified refugees) into the government payroll. Liberia has also included refugees health and gender issues into the national development structure. Inclusion of the Liberian workers into the government payroll will be done progressively and is subject to the availability of funds.

**Honorable distinguished ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Government of Liberia, I am pleased to use this medium to call on the world body and the comity of nations to continue to listen to the plight of refugees across Africa and the world as large.

We will need all necessary support as we promote refugee population and host countries in responsibilities sharing and commitment.

**Thank you Excellencies and Distinguished Members**