

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to speak on the Voluntary National Review process for Liberia based on feedback gathered from Civil Society representative of Liberia.

We are glad that the Government of Liberia adopted awareness raising approaches on the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure meaningful participation of rights holders groups, particularly those most affected by development challenges, in the elaboration of the VNR.

However, the Government of Liberia did not prioritize citizen-led engagement strategies for citizens to contribute to the VNR due to the COVID-19 pandemic according to the CSO report.

Consultations

There has been some level of consultation by the Government of Liberia with key stakeholders including ministries and agencies local and international NGOs, CSOs, private sector, development partners/donors, etc,

Furthermore, we have been informed that the Government of Liberia plans to follow-up with the presentation of the VNR at the national and subnational levels after the HLPF.

Please can the government outline how this process for dialogue will continue after the HLPF? How will this be embedded in the national development plans?

We, the civil society organizations will advocate and promote international instruments that protect the fundamental human rights of everyone. We are also calling on the government to uphold the human rights of everyone.

We work to reduce identified inequality gaps, using a rights-based approach and our plan towards 2030 for eradication of all forms of inequality should engage all relevant stakeholders leaving no one behind.

We would ask the government what measures are planned to reduce inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind?

Finally, what accessibility measures are considered to address the challenges that specific groups of population face?

The sustainable development agenda will serve as a roadmap for our country's development to produce new ways to ensure that everyone has access to citizenship.

