Mr. Chair,

I congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election; and wish you success in the discharge of your task.

We hail initiatives of the United Nations; aimed at mitigating conflicts around the world; especially; in relation to the work of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA); charged with the responsibility to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) also promotes disarmament efforts; in the area of conventional weapons; especially land mines and small arms, which are often the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts; and these are
weapons; commonly used in civil conflicts; as was the case of Liberia.

In spite of the achievements of the United Nations; regarding disarmament, we believe we can do better to guarantee the safety and prosperity of our world; though being cognizant of the growing threats, including; tensions between states; civil wars, and terrorism – which now have no borders; as well as threats of the use of nuclear warheads.

As a global body; we will need to consolidate our work; collaboratively; to ensure; these heightened tensions and threats do not escalate.

Liberia will continue to be a contributing country to global efforts; in promoting peace and security. On behalf of His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, the Government and People of Liberia; we re-affirm our commitment; as a state party; to the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT); the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); and remain supportive of the African Union (AU) initiatives; aimed at ensuring a conflict-free Africa; and appreciates the UN Security Council for its newly adopted resolution S/RES/2457/
(2019); title: “Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020”. We want to further assure; that the unflinching support of His Excellency President WEAH, the Government and People of Liberia to all other instruments that seek to address; and eliminate the use of nuclear weapons; remains unabated.

Similarly, on conventional weapons, Liberia is greatly concerned about the illicit trade, possession, manufacturing and the circulation of small arms and light weapons; and its negative effect on humanitarian and socio-economic development.

Pursuant to the commitment to its global obligations, the Government of His Excellency President Weah re-affirms its unwavering support to the Arm Trade Treaty (ATT); and recognizes the critical role; and the impact of multilateral instruments; including the United Nations Program of Action (PoA) to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons; in all of its aspects; as well as the International Tracing Instrument (ITI); used to identify and trace the massive flow of illegal arms and light weapons.

We are humbly honored to inform this body that Liberia is taking practical steps in the fight against the proliferation of small arms
and light weapons (SALW); including the ratification and
domestication of relevant treaties.

Liberia has made great strides in strengthening its legal
framework; especially for the domestication of the Arms Trade
Treaty. The Liberia National Commission on Small Arms
(LiNSCA) has drafted Two (2) bills for enactment into law by our
National Legislature: “The Liberia Arms Trade and Transfer Act
of 2019”-- to enhance national accountability and transparency of
the flow of arms; and “The Liberia National Commission on
Arms Act”-- to increase the scope and mandate of the Liberia
National Commission on Small Arms (LiNCSA). These bills
were reviewed and validated by the Liberia International
Humanitarian Law Committee (LIHLC), stakeholders from the
Security Agencies of the Government and relevant Civil Society
Organizations. These bills will be submitted to our National
Legislature upon return from their annual Agriculture Break; next
year-- 2020.
Liberia’s Flagship National Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD); also endeavors to increase regional and multilateral cooperation and coordination for the attainment of international sustained peace and security.

In conclusion,

Let me admonish all of us that the fight is never over until our dreams and aspirations are achieved. Our continuous persistence will certainly pay off. A safe and happy world can only spur happiness and productivity; where everyone can live, not in fear; but in sustained peace, security and development.

My delegation looks forward to a successful session; and reaffirms our support to the work of the United Nations.

I thank you for your kind attention.