MID-TERM REPORT
ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPOA)

Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
December 7-8, 2015
INTRODUCTION

• Liberia is a post-conflict and least developed country
• Population of 4.7 (estimate of 2015)
• Liberia Presented its first report in 2012
• The report focused on alignment of IPoA to the National Development Plan (Agenda for Transformation)
• The Eight Priority Areas of IPoA are visible in the five pillars of AfT
PROGRESS TO-DATE

- Productive Capacity

1. Infrastructure

The Concentration is building more Roads and Bridges

Intervention is to open up the Economic Corridors to increase accessibility and reduce transport cost to spur trade and commerce
PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY

2. Energy (Generation and T&D)
   1. Mount Coffee Hydro
   2. Three HFO generators
   3. WAPP
   4. CLSG connectivity

Is to unlock the Potential of the private sector and compliment other infrastructure project around the economic corridors.
PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

• AfT identified Private Sector as Engine of Growth
• The successful attraction of FDI in the extractive sector: Forestry, Oil Palm and Mining
• The government has focused on removing bottlenecks to concession operation in Liberia
• MSME policy, Small Business Acts and Liberianization Policies to promote local economic development
Agriculture is the mainstay of the Liberian economy serving as the largest source of employment for Liberians.

There are major concession in Oil Palm and Rubber offering employment opportunities and the development of out-grower schemes that enable small-holders to sell their output to the concessionaires.
Agriculture has accounted for approximately half of GDP in the post-war period, and the majority of Liberians depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

ASRP, SAPEC WAPP, STCRP and others
Human and Social Development

- Human development is central to Liberia’s Agenda for Transformation, which seeks to provide opportunities for all.
- Education
- Health
- Youth Development
- Water & Sanitation
- Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
- Social Protection
- The Human Development agenda includes pragmatic economic priorities for human development as well as rights-based imperatives, in order to have an impact in the short term and set the stage for medium to long-term improvements.
• Trade was hampered during the period due to EVD
• Liberia will be joining WTO
• To enhance trade, Liberia is intending to enact the following important trade legislation: Competition Law (Anti-trust Law), Foreign Trade Law (Law to govern importation and licensing) and legislations on Technical Barrier to Trade (labeling, technical requirements for products) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (plant, animal and human health, food safety issues)
The main export commodities are Rubber, Palm Oil, Cocoa and Coffee.

Rubber price suffered set back during the period.

Cocoa and Coffee rehabilitation under Small Tree Crop project by IFAD and World Bank is ongoing.
MULTIPLE CRISES AND OTHER EMERGING CHALLENGES

- Ebola Virus Disease Epidemic
- Drop in primary export commodities prices (Rubber and Iron Ore)
Mobilizing Financial Resources for Development and Capacity Building

• *Domestic resource mobilization*
  National Budget from tax and Non tax revenue and grants/loans

• *Official development assistance*
  The donor support to Liberia 2012-2015 amounted to 1.3 billion.

Challenged by lack of coordination, not using national system, lack of aid management policy and limited information flow.
External debt

Liberia borrowings are in line with External Credit Facility program of IMF

Most borrowing are to support the infrastructure project and youth development

As of December 2014, the loans signed stands at $700m
Foreign direct investment
Liberia attracted significant amount of FDIs
Most of the FDI are in the extractive industry
Challenged by non-value addition and development of the value chain
Mobilizing Financial Resources for Development and Capacity Building

Science, Technology and Innovation
The focus is on ICT and Postal Services
The Fiber Optic cable connection to enhance communication and trade
MOBILIZING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Remittances

Remittances are one of the foreign exchange sources for the National Budget.

Remittances stood at $378m in 2012 representing a third of the GDP.
Good Governance at All Levels

- The goal of the AfT is to create a transparent, accountable and responsive public institutions.
- Focuses on:
  - Security sector reform
  - Public sector reform
  - Establishment of Integrity institutions
  - Public Financial management System
COHERENCE AND LINKAGES WITH THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND OTHER GLOBAL PROCESSES

- AfT was MDG sensitive
- SDG is under consideration for domestication
CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

- Commitment to the goals and objectives of IPoA as is evidence by the strides being made in line with building productive capacity toward the attainment of the 8 interlinking priorities,

- Minus the EVD outbreak, and in line with the aspiration of our national vision, Liberia is on the right trajectory towards meeting the "graduation criteria" though at a later period than 2020

- A number of risk factors would need to be mitigated in order to fulfill our development aspiration which will contribute to the fulfillment of the IPoA, *(Reference to AfT. Pp. 194)*

- Enlist the continuous support of our development partners as we move towards a national election in 2017- which will decide the future of the country